

# The FARM TRIBUNE

VOL. VI — NO. 19

THE FARM TRIBUNE PROGRESS EDITION Thursday, November 5, 1953



DIANE STEVENTON, Porterville College student, who has been selected to serve as queen of the 1953 Porterville Homecoming. Miss Steventon will be officially crowned at a public coronation ball to be held Tuesday evening at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, with Dan Dailey, motion picture star and grand marshal of the Homecoming parade, doing the honors. Attendants, with Miss Steventon, will be: Myana Tobias, senior princess, Joyce Gallant, Mary Rocha and Delores Hutchinson.

## SPRINGVILLE VETERAN BUILD. DEDICATION SET FOR SUNDAY; PLAN AFTERNOON PROGRAM

SPRINGVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Doors of the new \$80,000.00 Springville Veterans' Memorial Building will open at 2:00 o'clock, Sunday, November 8, for inspection and dedication ceremonies, with the public invited to attend.

Dedication of the memorial building will be conferred to the Springville district by Cyrille O. Faure, president of the Porterville Memorial board under whose jurisdiction the building was completed.

Ceremonies will begin with the raising of the flag by the Porterville American Legion Color Guard at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Invocation will follow by Reverend Dale Harper of the Springville Methodist church.

Master of ceremonies for the day, Frank Pratt, will introduce

## EXHIBITORS CONSIGN TO HERFORD EVENT

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Exhibitors and consignors to the California Polled Hereford association sale and show to be held at the state fairgrounds at Sacramento November 13 and 14 from southeastern Tulare county are: Acehi Herefords, Giddings and Patterson Hereford ranch, Luther

(Continued to Page 7)

## Farmers Can Put Opinions In Official Record

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Farmers of the area will have a chance to get their ideas into the "official record" when the U. S. House of Representatives Agricultural committee holds a hearing in the Porterville city hall next Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock.

Individual farmers and representatives of farm organizations will be given an opportunity to place in the official records of the committee, statements concerning national farm policies and programs. All statements should be presented in written form; because of a tight travelling schedule, speaking time allotted to any individual will necessarily be short.

Chairman of the committee is Clifford Hope of Kansas; arrangements for the Porterville meeting were made through the committee

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PORTERVILLE HAS always enjoyed its celebrations, even back about 1902 when the above picture was taken. Johnnie Howell,

Porterville's first city marshal, is shown leading a parade, possibly during a Fourth of July celebration, which, in the old days, was as

important as the modern Armistice Day Homecoming in Porterville next Wednesday. (Photo courtesy Joe Faure Sr.)



TABLE SHOWN above now belongs to Chester Doyle. It was made by a man named Wilson in 1886 from a burl on the side of the Hollow Tree at Summer Home, now Balch Park. Mr. Wilson worked for Chester Doyle's father, J. J. Doyle, who acquired the table. In those early days, the Doyle family lived, during the summer, in the Hollow Tree. The table is now on display at The Farm Tribune.

(Farm Tribune photo)

## HOMECOMING CELEBRATION READY TO ROLL WITH PARADE HEADLINING ANNUAL EVENT

PORTERVILLE, November 5, 1953 — Thousands of valley residents will line Porterville's Main street next Wednesday, November 11, to witness the 35th Annual Homecoming celebration. Riding in the first division will be the famous motion picture star, Dan Dailey, on his own exhibition horse, as this year's Grand Marshal. Midway in the parade will be the royal carriage with newly crowned Queen Diane Steventon, Porterville College co-ed, and her four attendant princesses, Myana Tobias, Joyce Gallant, Delores Hutchinson and Mary Rocha.

### HOLIDAY SPIRIT

The gay holiday crowds will view, and take part in the many festivities of the celebration and pay tribute to the men and women of the armed services in whose honor the annual Armistice Day celebration is given.

Entries in the various parade divisions indicate that this year's parade will be the largest in the Homecoming's history. To date, 31 floats, 10 decorated cars, 20 bands and six mounted groups have filed their entries; in addition, there will be several marching units of National Guardsmen.

### PROGRAM

Officially, the Homecoming celebrations will begin Sunday, November 8, on a note of solemnity at the First Christian Church, where memorial services will be held under the auspices of the Porterville Ministerial association, starting at 8:00 p.m.

### FLOATS

This year's celebration theme, "Festival of Fantasy" dominates the 29 parade floats, and should prove to be not only the most colorful display in many years but one of unusual variety. According

to parade co-chairmen, Charles Haener and Edgar Sutherland, the only blueprints the decorators used were their imaginations. Entries from many valley communities are included.

### MUSICAL CONTEST

Interspaced throughout the parade, will be 20 bands from various valley schools and clubs providing martial scores for the marching units and tuneful pleasure for sidewalk onlookers. At 12:00 o'clock, bands from the high school and elementary groups will compete for trophies in the annual "Battle of the Bands."

### MOUNTED GROUPS

The crowd-pleasing mounted groups will display their horsemanship skill as they put their mounts through intricate precision parade drills. Riding in this division will be the Porterville Fair Cantabellies, the all-girl riding troupe, whose equestrian feats thrilled the crowds at this year's Tulare County fair.

### REUNION

At noon, a luncheon will be served at the high school cafeteria for the "Old Timers" who return each

(Continued on Page 8)

## Estimated 12,000 Cars Of Navel Oranges This Season

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — An estimated 12,000 cars of 1953 crop Navel oranges will be sent to market by the citrus growers of the southeastern Tulare county area, according to Stanley Trueblood, manager of the Tulare County Fruit Growers Exchange, with first shipment to begin the week ending November 16.

It is not expected that full production or shipping of this year's crop will get underway before the latter part of November or early December, due to the overall late-

ness of crop maturity resulting from the unusually late spring and early summer low temperatures.

Sizes of this year's Navel oranges are considerably smaller than previous years of recent date, but the quality is deemed exceptionally good.

This year the markets will receive about 15 percent more oranges in paper cartons, last year's experimental cardboard packing of about 10 percent of the crop being approved by trade associations, particularly the small grocers

who found the half-size paper cartons to their customers' and their own liking.

Most of the 16 houses affiliated with the Tulare County Exchange have converted to accommodate the new packing method. Although additional expense has occurred in the transformation to purchase special equipment, it is expected that lower labor costs will absorb the increased expenditures. A saving in packing costs are anticipated in that wrapping of individual

(Continued on page 8)

## SPORTSMEN'S PROJECTS FINANCED BY FUNDS FROM ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT SET FOR SUNDAY AT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Annual turkey shoot sponsored by the Southeastern Tulare county Sportsman's association is set for Sunday, November 8, at the Porterville Municipal airport beginning at 10:00 a.m. and lasting throughout the day.

Events listed are trap shooting, small bore rifle target and games of skill.

Proceeds for the day's activities, along with other fund raising projects, are used by the association for sportsmen's benefits. Last

year these included the planting of 10 tons of catchable fish, and 75 thousand fingerlings, mostly in the Tule river watershed area.

In addition, public corrals were built at Quaken Aspen along with the clearing of brush-covered trails for a total outlay of about \$1,000. Public pasture fences maintained at a cost of \$100, and upper streams were selected as sites for 16 head of beaver.

Proposed for future development is a lake on Boulder creek.



## Will Putnam Home Is Demolished; Ila Putnam Mathy Recalls Childhood During Early Days Of Porterville

(Ed. Note — Since the 1952 Homecoming, the old Will Putnam home at Mill and Fourth has been demolished. The following recollections are reprinted from a previous issue of The Farm Tribune.)

**By Ila Putnam Mathy  
As Told To Her Husband**  
PORTERVILLE, Dec. 11, 1952 — They are going to tear down an old house. A new building will eventually take its place and progress, one hopes, will have been served. But, it is my old childhood home. Here I lived as a little girl. Here I played with my friends. And, here linger the memories of lovely, protected and happy years spent with my dear

parents. So, you see, this is not just an old house, an old building, they will demolish; it's the castle of my early dreams.

However, all is not bleak or lost. After the aged boards have fallen, there will emerge in my memory the never to fade or to vanish childhood sanctuary wherein to retreat for an occasional flight of fancy and of happy recollection of days long gone by and of dear ones who passed on into another, we may hope happier, sphere.

As I walk over the now threadbare, worn, floors, I recall the lusciously thick carpets. I can yet see the damask covered chairs and settees, particularly the fringed ones in the parlor. One of these



ON THE porch of the Millick home this picture of the James Daley family was taken. From left to right, standing: Wallace Daley; Frank Adams, (not a member of the family — he ran a dray for

Charles Nesbit); Jennie Daley Millick; Robert Millick, her husband, and an early-day painter; Marshall Hicks, the husband of Lottie Daley; seater, Eddie Daley, one of the Daley twins; Archie Daley; James

Daley, the father; Lottie Daley Hicks; Edwin Daley, the other twin; Mrs. Jas. Daley, the mother; Emma Daley Sprung; Earl Millick in front of Emma; Roy Millick in front of Mrs. Daley.



THIS HOUSE, the old William P. Putnam home at Mill and Fourth streets in Porterville, has been torn down to make way for a modern building. In the accompanying article, Mrs. Ernest L. Mathy, the former Ila May Putnam, recalls her childhood spent in this house. Mrs. Mathy, who now resides at Three Rivers, is the only child of the late Will Putnam and a granddaughter of the founder of Porterville, Royal Porter Putnam.

served to impress upon me the proper decor for young ladies; my dear mother's most severe assertion of her parental authority took expression in placing me there to ponder over my delinquencies in this great chair's expansiveness. And, as I sat there, not too crest fallen, but contemplating the next journeys into new adventure and the joys of young living, there played upon the carpeted floors all of the colors of the rainbow, cast there by the sun rays filtered through the multi-colored glass panels in the ventilators above the windows. Imported colored glass panes, then so very modern and important in the peaceful days of a somewhat lavish use of curlicues and lace.

And into my memory streams the heavily scented air, laden with the perfume of magnolia blossoms of the trees now mostly gone. They had been planted, lovingly, by my mother in the garden which had been much larger before the widening of the streets. Of course, too, a girl's concept of space and dimensions is so greatly affected by her own size and the thirsty, absorbent mind of youth.

Here, upon the sidewalk on Mill street, often played my little Bantam rooster who had developed the habit of hiding himself in the nearby shrubbery only to race, with flying steps, upon the unprotected legs of unwary passers-by. He did no physical harm but, no doubt about it, he punctured much pride. And, kitty-cornered across the street lived my dear little, dainty, almost Dresden China like, Grandmother Putnam. I was born in her house, in the bedroom facing Mill street, since our home had not been completed at the time of my arrival.

Her house is yet standing and it is with much relief and comfort that I note its owners are keeping it in good repair. When I was a little girl, though, this house was surrounded by a large and inviting porch; and there was a breezeway, shadowed also by the huge oak trees, in which it seemed so particularly delightful to sit and to play.

Grandmother Putnam was a dear lady and I can well imagine why my Grandfather went all the way back to Bainbridge, N. Y., to convince her that life in the far West was worth the many privations a young lady would have to meet bravely. And here seems as good a place as any to correct the oft repeated error: my Grandfather was born in Covington, Pa., and not in the town of the same name located in Kentucky.

But, back to the home of my childhood. Here, in the realm of the kitchen ruled old Jim, the faithful, resourceful, kindly Chinese. Often we youngsters would pull his long queue, worn by all good Chinese at that time, and when Jim would stand it no longer from us little roughians, he would turn and, with assumed anger, drive us out of the kitchen; only to call us back again, when his wrath had cooled, to offer us some freshly baked cookies or some other welcome morsel. Beyond Jim's realm lay the dining room which was connected by sliding doors with the living room. Both had in colorful common, a glassed-in conservatory which my mother kept filled with beautiful shrubs and flowers, some of them in hanging earthen pots. The morning sun shone through this leafy filter and color was added by the inset glass of many hues. All of her life, my mother was a most enthusiastic gardener and she certainly had the "green thumb."

Across the hall lay the parlor. I have often thought that a parlor was an especially good idea. One could greet unexpected callers and guests with equanimity in the ever presentable beauty of one's parlor.

The rather steep stairway leading to the bedroom floor, had a bannister which seemed particularly designed for little girls to slide down; and the newel post offered the perfect break to even the most hair raising descent. I no longer like steep stairs, but then I no longer long to slide down the bannister. It was so much fun, though, as a child. The steep stairs were, of course, the result of high

ceilings which were a blessing in the hot, non-airconditioned days. Now I prefer all rooms on a single floor level.

We had four bedrooms. Two large ones were connected by wide sliding doors and, if I recall correctly, they were my father's and my mother's. My room was probably across the hallway, and a smaller one not far away from mine, was for guests. All four bedrooms now seem to be a bit inadequate.

Strange enough, to me at least, we had no fireplaces, but Franklin stoves, so popular and so efficient, at that time. Each room had a stove but some of the chimney openings seem to have been papered over by subsequent owners.

I miss the beautiful garden of my mother's planting and creating. Only one of the lovely Magnolia trees is now alive and one might hope that it will be permitted to live out its allotted span of years, bedecked with beautiful blooms which scent the air and bring joy to the passers-by during so many months of the year.

How sad that so many of Porterville's lovely trees were felled, I wonder why the City Fathers cared so little for these shady oaks and other large trees which, like a woman's tresses, seemed to me to have been Porterville's crowning glory?

Mill street, in the days gone by, was but a narrow road and so, for that matter was Putnam Ave. The well-kept gardens lay between them. On our west we were bounded by the "Ditch" across which we youngsters jumped with hilarious laughter. And, on the Putnam Ave. side was the home of the Laidlaws, the father was my father's architect and friend.

My little horse Sunol was kept, with my father's horse, Richard Kay, in a nearby stable. I recall that once, when I was a very little girl, I led the parade on Sunol. He had a beautiful new saddle and shining white martingale for the occasion. This was over 50 years ago.

The beautiful woodwork, both of the exterior and interior, still shows the fine craftsmanship now so rare; and all of it was a gleaming white. Now the ravages of time and the roosting pigeons (and how lovely their cooing) have taken their toll and after 60 years this faithful old home will be no more; excepting in my memories.

I don't know whether the so-called Good Old Days were better but I do know that the simple pleasures of our childhood seemed

so satisfying. We did not have the kaleidoscopic varieties of rushing, racing, thrilling entertainments of today but neither did we seem to have so many upset nerves and so many conflicting books on how to raise children.

However, let me assure you, dear reader, I do not seek a return engagement of the yesteryears. Life must be lived in the present and each generation must create for itself an environment best suited to its own temperament and needs. But, I may dream a bit of the past, as will you, as you too gather precious memories along the worthwhile path of life.

### Exhibitors Consign

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Patterson of Lindsay, Joe Faure Jr., Sandra Farnworth, and Ward Tate.

The Acehi Hereford ranch have consigned one bull, Giddings and

Patterson, two heifers, one pen of heifers and an individual bull; Luther Patterson, one pen of three bulls and a single bull.

Exhibiting in the fat steer class, are Joe Faure Jr., Sandra Farnworth and Ward Tate of Porterville. This is for junior exhibitors only, and carries a top cash award of \$250.00 for grand champion.

### BOX SOCIAL PLANNED AT DUCOR

DUCOR, Nov. 5, 1953 — A box social is planned for Saturday, November 7 by the Ducor 4-H club to be held in the old bank building at Ducor. Time is 7:15 p.m.

Those planning to attend are asked to bring their own box lunch; coffee and other beverages will be served by the club members. Proceeds will go to the John Dennis memorial fund. The public is cordially invited.

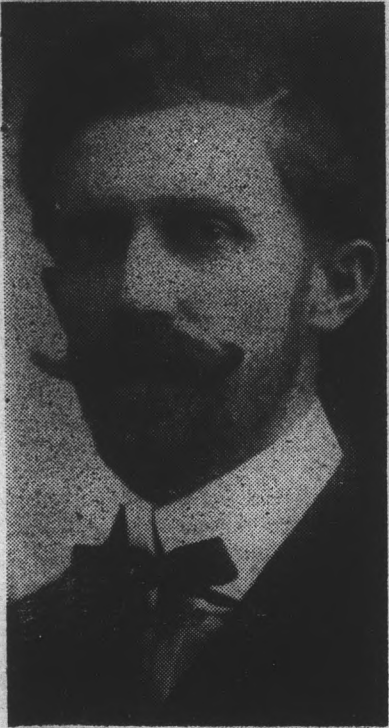


TAKEN ON their 27th wedding anniversary in 1909 was this picture of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. DeLaney.

(Photo courtesy Mrs. Gladys Lightner)



## H. C. CARR CAME TO A "MUDDY LITTLE COW TOWN" TO HELP START A NEW BANK



JUST 50 years ago Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Carr first arrived in Porterville, Mr. Carr becoming manager of the new First National bank. In the years that followed, he played a prominent part in affairs of the Porterville community and continued to advance in his chosen field of banking. The above pictures were taken by A. R. Moore, one of Porterville's early-day photographers, in 1904, a comparatively short time after the Carr family came to Porterville. (Photos courtesy Bernice Pfrimmer.)

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PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Banks usually play a part in the development of any community and Porterville has been no exception. The Pioneer Land Company established its original Pioneer bank in the early days and shortly after the turn of the century — in 1903 — a second bank was organized with the late H. C. Carr as manager.

As Mrs. Ethel L. Carr, wife of H. C. Carr, recalls, the Carr family came to Porterville just 50 years ago, and today she remembers "many of the old pioneers who were in the muddy, little cow town, all optimistically doing business and boosting for their town."

Mr. Carr originally came to Porterville at the instigation of T. L. Price, who had read in his old home-town newspaper from Pembina, North Dakota, that Mr. Carr, without his family, had come to San Jose from Pembina, and from that item Mr. Price had rightly concluded that Mr. Carr was looking for a location in the West.

The Carrs and the Prices had been friends in North Dakota, so it was only natural that Mr. Price contacted Mr. Carr by telephone and asked him to come to Porterville.

At that time, however, Mr. Carr, with his uncle, Dr. W. K. Davis, president of the First National Bank of San Jose, had already applied to Washington for permission to organize a bank in Palo Alto. But several calls from Mr. Price resulted in Mr. Carr's first visit to Porterville.

The community apparently attracted Mr. Carr — the beauty of spring and the indication that a second bank seemed to be needed — resulted in a change of plans, and instead of continuing with the Palo Alto deal, Mr. Carr decided to make his permanent home in Porterville.

As Mrs. Carr recalls, those men who were among the first sponsors and stockholders of the new First National bank in Porterville were: J. H. Williams, Wilko Mentz, T. L. Price, John Larsen, John Dennis, W. E. Sprott, H. F. Brey and Mr. Carr. First list of potential sponsors and stockholders was jotted down on a piece of scratch paper when a group of prominent men of the community were brought together to discuss the proposed new bank.

Mr. Carr brought considerable experience in banking to Porterville. He was cashier of the Merchants' bank of Pembina when he came West to San Jose; prior to that time he had received training under Stanley Conklyn of New York and Columbus, Kansas, and Mr. Carr had held banking positions in Columbus.

On the first board of directors of the new Porterville bank, with Mr. Carr, were Mr. Williams, Mr. Mentz, Mr. Price and Mr. Larson. The slogan "Your Bank" was used and a policy of friendliness was adopted.

Through the years the First National bank assisted in many worthwhile city and county developments. As Mrs. Carr recalls, individuals were not advised to rush headlong into debt, but to "make haste slowly."

(Continued On Next Page)

# Make A Date!



## 35th Annual VETERANS Homecoming CELEBRATION

PORTERVILLE - WED., NOV. 11

*Lots of fun for everyone*

- GIANT PARADE . . . . . 10:00 a.m.  
20 BANDS — Dan Dailey, Grand Marshal
- BATTLE OF THE BANDS . . 12:00 noon  
TOP SCHOOL BANDS COMPETING
- OLD-TIMERS' REUNION . . 12:00 noon  
AT HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS
- COLLEGE FOOTBALL . . . 2:00 p.m.  
TAFT vs. PORTERVILLE
- HOT ROD RACES . . . . . 2:00 p.m.  
CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVERS, Porterville Speed Bowl
- HOMECOMING DANCES . . 9:00 p.m.  
VFW Hall and Green Mill

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## H. C. Carr Helped Start a New Bank

(Continued From Previous Page)

"A man ambitious to start a dairy herd might be loaned the price of one well-bred cow," Mrs. Carr recalls. "When that animal was paid for, the bank loaned sufficient money to purchase possibly two cows, and eventually a herd was built up and the owner found himself free of debt."

The interests of Mr. Carr extended outside of the banking business. He was active in work of the early-day "Pig Club" that was a forerunner of the present-day 4-H clubs; he was on the board of directors of the Tulare County YMCA when that group purchased its Lake Sequoia camp site; he assisted with organization and financing of the First Baptist church in Porterville.

Promotion of such crops as alfalfa and cotton were aided by

Mr. Carr and as a sidelight on cotton, Mrs. Carr recalls that he would loan only on long-staple cotton, which brought Tulare county growers a premium, in the early days of cotton production, of two cents per pound.

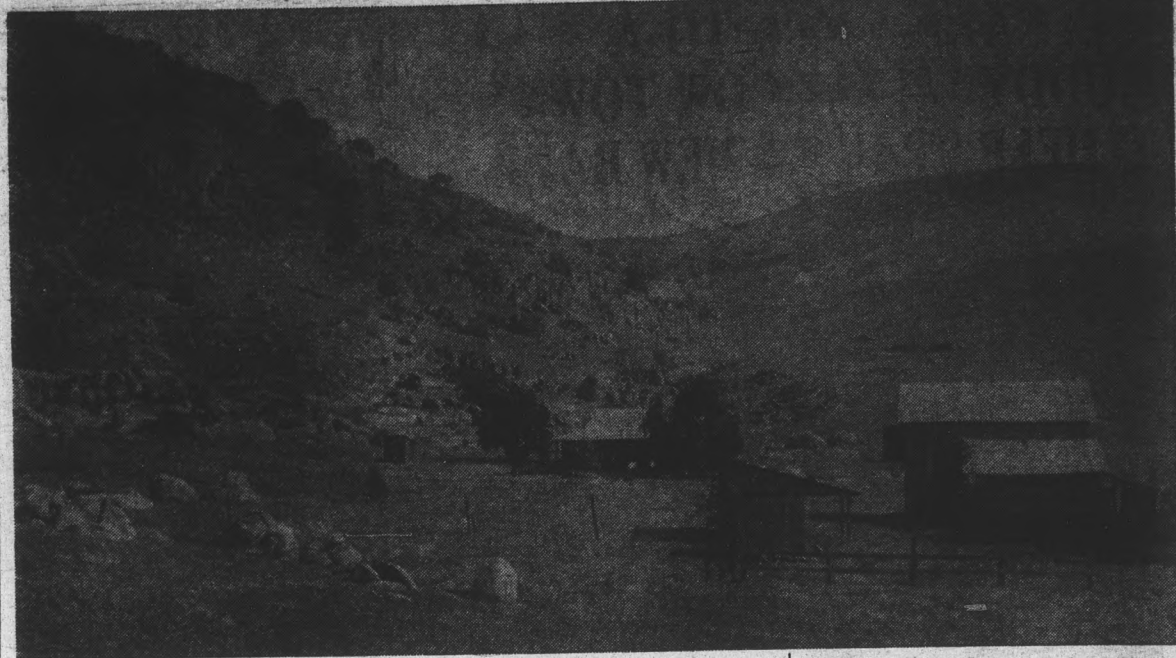
In fraternal work, he was active as an Elk, a Mason, a Knights Templar and a Shriner.

Through the years, Mr. Carr became known in banking circles as the "farmer-banker;" he served as president of the California Bankers' association and as a member of the executive council of the American Bankers' association.

In 1927, the First National Bank of Porterville became affiliated with the Bank of Italy, which, in 1930, became the Bank of America. Mr. Carr then moved his family to Palo Alto when he accepted a position as vice president of the Bank of Italy in San Francisco.

When the Carrs came to Porterville, they had two children, John and Jesse; two other children, Harriette and Phil were born in Porterville. Death claimed Mr. Carr on August 23, 1929, at Palo Alto; interment was in the Porterville cemetery.

At present, Mrs. Carr resides in Long Beach; John is a Long Beach business man and Harriette also resides in southern California. Jesse is a prominent San Francisco physician and Phil is now in Honolulu.



HOME OF Myron Festus Giddings, homesteaded in 1893, and located along the lower western edge of Rocky hill, east of Porterville.

Mr. Giddings developed a spring at this location which furnished water for the house, and ir-

rigation water for a small orchard and garden. (Photo courtesy Mrs. R. O. McDonald).

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## MYRON FESTUS GIDDINGS SOUGHT GOLD IN CALIFORNIA THEN SETTLED IN PORTERVILLE

By Mrs. R. O. MacDonald

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 —

Myron Festus Giddings was born in Oakland county, Michigan, August 1, 1830.

When news of the gold discovery in California reached there,

The Carrs were among the first families to "take to the hills" with residential dwellings in Porterville, the Carr home still standing on Scenic Heights, north of the city of Porterville, where Mr. and Mrs. Allen Basye, who purchased the house when the Carrs left for Palo Alto, still reside.

he was 20 years old and working for \$16.00 a month. By 1853 he had accumulated enough to make the trip West. He went by rail to New York, thence by boat to San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama.

From San Francisco he and a companion went into the general territory east of Stockton where they engaged in placer mining. His share of the accumulation was approximately \$2,500.00 when his cabin was broken into and it was stolen by one of the thieves which infested the territory and who left no trace or clue.

Myron never carried any kind of gun or defensive weapon, nor would he remain in the vicinity of saloons or other disorderly places.

In 1856, with only enough money to pay for his return to Michigan, to show for his three years mining experiences, he returned to Michigan, and on Christmas of that year he married Martha Fowler. They lived in Michigan until 1883 when his wife died, leaving him with two sons and a daughter — Frederick, Eugene and Alta.

That year he went with Alta to Wayne, Nebraska, where he lived for a time with his oldest son, Eugene, and his wife. In 1885 Myron, with his son, Frederick, again came to California — this time to Porterville.

On November 17th of that year, they, together filed on a homestead described as W $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and W $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 20, Town. 21-S, Range 28 East, MDB&M, County of Tulare. This was roughly the west lower portion of Rocky hill which is east of Porterville. The patent proving up on this homestead certified was dated May 23, 1893, and was signed by President Grover Cleveland.

He worked for Albert Henry for several years and later for himself. He built a small home at the foot

of Rocky hill and developed a spring there which furnished water for a little orchard and garden.

The son, Frederick, for two years drove the stage and carried mail from Tulare to Milo — up one day and back the next by way of Porterville, where he stayed nights, having a room in the old Bond rooming house on Hockett St. In those early days it was very wet and marshy in the valley and he contracted Typhoid fever and died October 31, 1887. He is buried in the old Porterville cemetery.

In 1894, Eugene O. Giddings and his wife and three children, Ethel, Myron and Bernice, came to California from Nebraska, arriving in Porterville in March of that year. Here he lived for 50 years, contributing much to the development of the community. He died in 1944 at the age of 85 and is buried in the family plot in the old Porterville cemetery beside his brother Frederick and his father, Myron, who died April 10, 1913, at the age of 83.

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953

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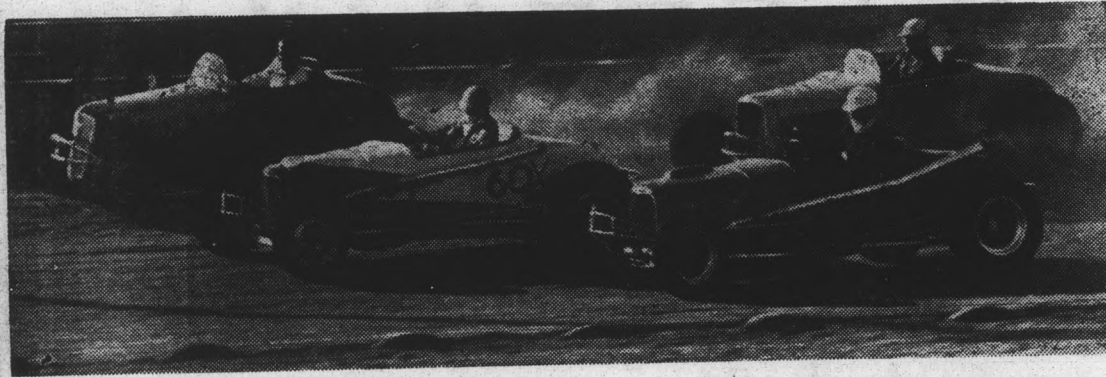
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## Mayhem On Wheels



## HOT ROD RACES

**NOV. 11 - 2 p. m.**

**Porterville Speedbowl**

— 3 MILES EAST OF PORTERVILLE ON PUTNAM —

**25-LAP MAIN EVENT  
TROPHY DASH**

**15-LAP SEMI-MAIN  
HEAT RACES**

Time Trials — 12 Noon

**Speed - Thrills - Chills**

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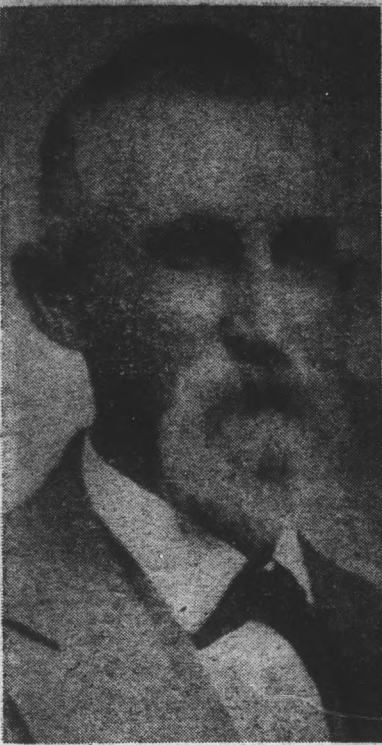
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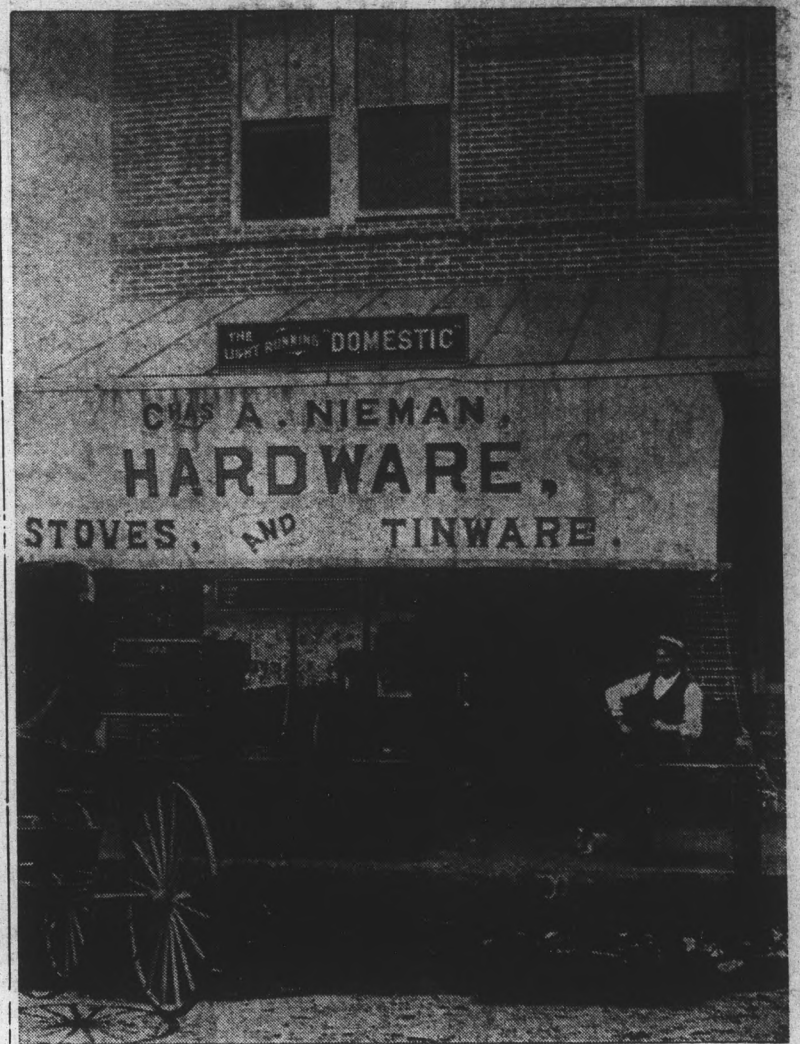
## We Only Heard

By BILL RODGERS

PROGRESS OF the Porterville community can be readily visualized by the reading of stories in this issue of The Farm Tribune — our annual Progress edition. Old-timers know that the development of the community has never been of the spectacular, boom type, rather, it has been steady and firm through the past 70 or more years . . . And that progress is continuing. Since last Homecoming day, a new, 2,500-bed state hospital has been officially opened east of the old community of Plano; at Springville, a new, \$80,000.00 memorial building is being dedicated next Sunday; at Terra Bella, a memorial building is in the process of construction; at Woodville, a less expensive project is underway in the remodeling of the old community hall and school building into a modern meeting place; in Porterville, a new Bank of America building is nearing completion, several new subdivisions are being developed and plans have been announced for construction of a new Porterville college plant on the Jay G. Brown property south of Tule river . . . All-in-all, the southeastern Tulare county area is progressing, just as it has for many years, and every indication points to continued steady progress and growing communities.

FATHER AND son, who were pioneers of the Porterville area — Myron Festus Giddings, who homesteaded in 1893 along the southwestern edge of Rocky hill and his son, Frederick, who for two years drove the stage and carried mail between Tulare and Milo. (Photos courtesy Mrs. R. O. McDonald.)

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953



HARDWARE STORE of Charles A. Nieman, facing on Main street of the present Bank of America. (Photo courtesy Mrs. R. C. Giliam.)

Tewksbury, Ann Johnson, Beverly Carpenter and Nira Becker . . . This show fits right in with the historical atmosphere of Homecoming day, and it can be recommended for the entire family. It's a good show that we believe you'll really like.

## BUTANE

Jack Griggs, Inc.  
SALES AND SERVICE

COMPLETE INSTALLATIONS  
OF ALL APPLIANCES

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Porterville, California

## WELCOME PIONEERS On Homecoming Day



THIS POLICY  
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"THE BEST IS  
NONE TOO GOOD  
FOR YOU!"

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## Welcome Homecomers



# WHEELER

Furniture Company

119 N. MAIN - PORTERVILLE

Stores Also At Corcoran and Shafter



## ROYAL THOMPSON PATRIARCH OF FIVE GENERATIONS

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 —

Royal Thompson, who at the age of 95 was in a picture of five generations, was born January 5, 1852, in Modine County, Missouri, and died April 21, 1948 in Porterville. He came to California in 1863 with his parents, and lived in Solano county. In 1885 he arrived in the Porterville area, and for \$3.00 an acre bought land in the Deer Creek section where they made their home.

The mother in the family was Matilda Jene Hill Thompson, who died in 1890. The children in the family were: Frank Thompson; Alice, who married John Witt, and is one of the five generations; Carrie Thompson King; James Thompson; Lewis Thompson; Zella Thompson Hewett; and the twins, Cleve Thompson who lives in Santa Paula, and Thurman Thompson who lives in Los Angeles.

Royal Thompson spent his last days with his daughter, Alice Witt. His brother, Milton Thompson, also lived in the Porterville area and had these daughters who grew up here: Eva Tillis; Stella Kessing; Ruth Mullins; and twins, Alma, who died at nine years of age, and Ada who went to live in Fresno.

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953



## Range Bulls

F. R. and EVALYN  
FARNSWORTH

Phone: White River 4-F-2

## \$17 Million Plant On Former Mentz Hill Land

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 —

Pioneers visiting Porterville for the annual Homecoming November 11 should make it a point to at least drive past the new \$17,000,000.00 Porterville State hospital, located east of Plano on the slope of Mentz hill, for the opening of this institution on May 12 of this year can well be classed as "the event of the year" in so far as the Porterville community is concerned.

When it is fully completed and its capacity of 2,500 patients reached, this hospital plant will employ more than 800 persons and will bring a monthly payroll of \$200,000.00 to the community.

It will also serve as a magnet to draw many hundreds of persons to Porterville, as visitors and semi-permanent and permanent residents. Primarily as a result of the hospital stimulus, new subdivisions are being opened and new homes are being built more rapidly than at any time in the history of Porterville.

## Frank Rounsaville Worked On Old Electric Plant

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 —

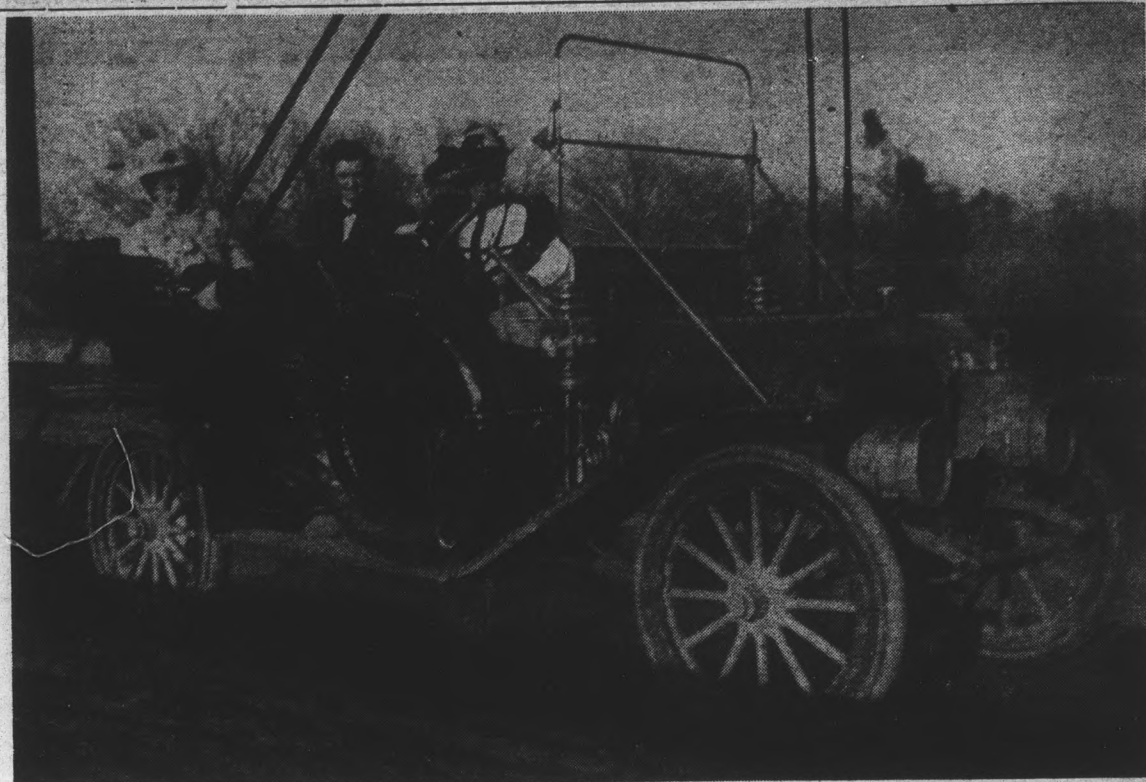
Electricians have had their part in the growth of Porterville's homes. One whose reliable work is in many homes is Frank A. Rounsaville. A native Californian, he was born in Hanford in 1879, the family came to Porterville in 1888.

His first work as an electrician was connected with the Walter Norris and A. D. Willson electric plant on Fourth street south of Mill. He helped put up lines and transformers, and wired houses for

incandescent lights, beginning in 1897.

When the Mt. Whitney Electric Power and Light company took over the Porterville system he began working for that company; he was with them in Visalia until 1906, then went to San Francisco for a while, but returned to Porterville in 1910. He was in the shop of Wesley Little for quite a while and then became a partner in the Orange Belt Electric Co., located near the southeast corner of Garden and Main streets. His later work was as a specialist for refrigerators.

He has now retired to his home at 222 South Hockett street, which he bought in 1898. At that time there was a pump on the back porch; and the lights were kerosene lamps. The house which he bought from Norris and Willson was bordered by Hockett's vineyard. His daughter, Alice, married William Walker and lives in Tulare.



THE OLD and the new is shown above. In the EMF car on the old Plano bridge about 1910 are Miss Georgia Cook, (Mrs. H. C. Balaam, of Exeter) Allen Basye and Miss Cordia Cook (the late Mrs. Jay G. Brown), the picture being taken by Jay Brown. In the lower photo, Mrs. Balaam, right, 40 years later on the new Plano bridge, with Mr. Basye and Mrs. W. V. Baird, of Strathmore, the former Miss

Amelia Cook. At extreme left is the front end of a 1953 Buick, somewhat different in appearance than the front of the old EMF. (Old photo courtesy of Jay Brown)

## General Hauling

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RODGERS L. MOORE

Where Your Patronage  
Is Appreciated  
810 W. Olive Porterville

## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Enrollment in Porterville elementary schools is up for the 1953 semester. Figures to date show an increase of 87 students over the same period of last year when 2,853 students were on the rolls.



In keeping with progress of Porterville is this Modern Domestic and Commercial refrigeration plant. Established since World War II by Joseph F. Cemo, a Veteran, and a Pioneer of Porterville for 34 years, the Dependable Refrigeration, with equal and courteous service, has built exceptional goodwill in the community.

**Featuring Everything In Refrigeration**  
DOMESTIC — COMMERCIAL — AIR CONDITIONING

— And Now — Emerson Television —

WELCOME VETERANS AND PIONEERS

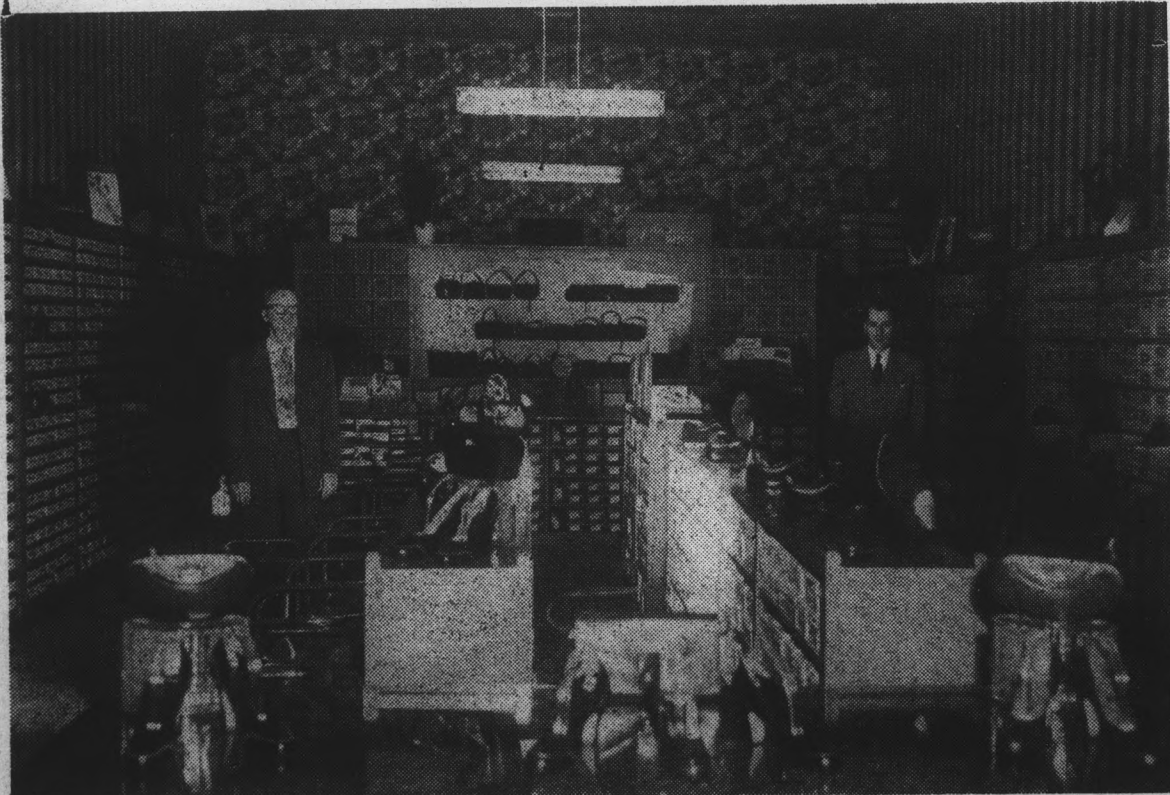
## Dependable Refrigeration

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Phone 1350

## "WELCOME — OLD-TIMERS AND ALL!" YOUR PIONEER SHOE STORE



**Serving the Public with Quality Shoes for the Family  
Well Over Fifty Years At the Same Location**

Former Pioneer Owners — C. C. Arkle, U. B. Wilson and W. S. (Bill) Allen. Brooks Hartman is now carrying on with High Grade Footwear and the same fine policies that have made this store successful for five decades.

**HARTMAN'S** Smart Footwear

403 N. Main St.

Porterville



# CLASSIFIEDS SAVE TIME AND MONEY

## NOTICE

Responsibility for an error in any advertisement will be assumed by The Farm Tribune for only one publication of said advertisement.

## BUY IT! SELL IT! TRADE IT!

### RATE

4c per word for one issue.  
8c per word, same ad for three issues  
\$1.00 minimum charge.

★ Repair Service —70

PIANO TUNING and Repair —  
Donald M. Knight, 303 Doris,  
phone 2197-J, Porterville.

m28tf

★ Misc. For Sale 75

RED FRYERS for sale. S. L.  
Creeks, 1015 East Date street,  
Porterville. j23-d31

FOR RENT — Furnished apartment, close in. Adults. All utilities furnished. \$35 month. Phone 1579-W.

FOR SALE — 4-burner Hotpoint electric range. Phone 429. Can be seen in furnace room of Methodist Church.

FOR SALE — Apples, Red and Golden Delicious. Roman Beauties later. First house east of U. S. Ranger Station or Gage's Service Station at Springville. Please bring your own containers. o8-6t

## 65 POUND

Super Smooth

## ROOFING

\$2.98 Per Roll

ORANGE STREET FEED STORE  
(Exclusive "Pillsbury" Dealer)

Corner Orange and "E" Sts.  
Phone 1396 Porterville

FOR SALE — Used Spinet piano, good condition, \$350. Used Cold-spot freezer, nearly new, \$325. Phone 22-W-4, Porterville. o15-3

FOR SALE — Nice, three-week-old White Leghorn Pullets; Dryden strain. Only 38c apiece. 227 North D street, phone 41, Porterville. o29-1

WANTED — 20 to 40 acre orange groves. Have qualified buyers for groves with good production in warm location. J. D. Frost, Realtor, 309 East Putnam, telephone 1167, Porterville. o29-2

●OTTON PICKING Wanted—Two International Machines; experienced operators; Trailers supplied; \$1.50 per hundred. Phone Porterville 2284, Jim DeLucas. o29-1p

FOR SALE — Registerel Hereford bull, Onward Golden Domino; calved August 29, 1950. Sire, WR Sun Domino 2; dam Queen Beth Tone; bred by Ray and Louise Hutchinson; guaranteed breeder. Can be seen at L. H. Frasher ranch on 6th avenue east of Cairns avenue. Phone Lindsay 2-3296 after 6:30 p.m. Picture of bull on page 1 of this issue of The Farm Tribune. o29-1

★ Stock Breeding 82

FOR PROMPT and efficient cattle breeding service, call 2211-M or 1223-J, Porterville. Paul Thompson. jy2tf

VALLEY ARTIFICIAL BREEDERS — Breed cows by proven bulls. Call 925. 24-hour radio dispatch service. All calls by 9 a.m. answered by 12; all calls from 9:15 to 3 answered after 3; all calls after 3 p.m. answered from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. o29

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF DOING BUSINESS UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the undersigned, BOB JURKOVICH, VINCE JURKOVICH and PETE JURKOVICH, have formed a partnership and are transacting business as co-partners in the City of Porterville, County of Tulare, State of California, under the name of "Porterville Cement Pipe Co."

That the full names of all members of such partnership and their respective places of residence are as follows: Bob Jurkovich, 1063 East Date, Porterville, California; Pete Jurkovich, 1063 East Date St., Porterville, California; Vince Jurkovich, 325 Hapgood, Porterville, California.

BOB JURKOVICH  
PETE JURKOVICH  
VINCE JURKOVICH  
State of California,  
County of Tulare, ss.

On this 24th day of October, 1953, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared Bob Jurkovich, Pete Jurkovich and Vince Jurkovich, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.  
GAYLORD N. HUBLER  
Notary Public in and for said county and state. o26,n5,12,19,26

(SEAL)

## 12,000 Cars Orange

(Continued From Page One)

oranges are not essential in the sealed cartons. The familiar wood box will be used to pack the balance.

Navel growers, according to Mr. Trueblood, will not be faced with any increased amount of the fruit diverted to juice as were the Valencia citrus men. Prospects look good for this year's crop being disposed into the regular consumer channels, namely the home purchaser who buys the fruit to be eaten.

At a meeting of the prorate committee scheduled for this week, prorates will be adopted and tentative shipping schedules will be allocated. This year marks the return of the prorate after an absence of one year without it.

## Fred Stone First Came To Porterville To Install Steam Heat In Church; Learned Plumbing From His Father

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Frederick W. Stone arrived in Porterville at the time when plumbing shops were no longer an adjunct of hardware stores, but had work enough in their own line and carried their own materials and the manufactured articles for the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. In the earlier shops there was more sheet-metal work, the tinsmith was more needed than the plumber.

The vigorous growth of Porterville in the 1890's had resulted in its incorporation as a city in 1902 and the beginning of municipal ownership of the water system. Hence more plumbing. New settlers discovered that even in sunny California more heat is needed than sunshine produces, and missed the steam-heating they had been used to.

What brought Frederick Stone from Fresno to Porterville in 1908 was the installing of steam heating in the Congregational church. While here some of the city councilmen talked with him about the sewer system they were about to put in. So he brought his family in 1910; they lived on Third street at first, until the Templetons built for them the house at 921 El Granito Ave. Mrs. Stone says that all the houses for rent they looked at had gas for cooking and had electric lighting.

The Stones came from Toledo, Ohio. Frederick Stone (1875-1941) had married Alice Burnep; their children are: Frederick E. Stone, now Superior Court Judge of Tulare county; Margaret Stone Ruckti of Los Angeles; Helen Stone, teacher, now counselor in Bakersfield High School; Mary Alice Stone McLaughlin of Hermosa Beach.

Fred Stone's father was a sheet metal worker; and his own three-year apprenticeship to the plumber's trade had been in a large city, so that he had experience in lead work and soldering. Apprentices were taught to make the joints and the underneath traps that prevent the escape of sewer gas, with illustrations used by means of glass pipes and fittings. (However, by the time Mr. Stone sold his plumbing business to H. T. Lefever in 1938, these joints and fittings were coming from factories all ready to put in.)

The Porterville sewer system mains were laid by an outside firm equipped with big machinery for that purpose. But Mr. Stone, because of his experience, secured much house plumbing. Also he put steam heating into the Springville Tuberculosis sanitarium, the

Telephone building on Main street, in Porterville, the high school and other schools here and in other towns. He liked the big jobs, liked to work for architects because then there were agreed specifications to work to. His shop was at 306 Mill street, where there is now a restaurant.

He had for a partner Frank Mitchell, who was a sheet metal worker and had had a shop in Porterville. They once were employing as many as 10 men. Charles Nie-man did some of the tin work. Among his apprentices were: Claude Bradley, who had come from Tennessee to his uncle Sam Bradley of Poplar, and who after his apprenticeship had his own shop for nearly 20 years; Verne Ekman; and Jack McLachlan, who went to Fresno early in days of World War II.

There used to be on the northeast corner of Mill and Third streets, a building often called the Pavilion and used for a dance hall, etc. Fred Stone bought the building from Charles Holston and the lot on which it stood from Marion Crabtree, intending to replace it; but it was destroyed by fire. The present building still owned by Mrs. Stone on the site, he had built for an office building and lodge hall.

The Stone-Mitchell shop kept a stock not only of pipe and its joints and fittings and heating equipment, but also enameled bathroom fixtures and sinks and heavy metal stationary laundry tubs, instead of the zinc bath tubs and sinks and the round galvanized laundry tubs of the 1890's. Of course, other Porterville plumbers were also carrying these up-to-date appliances. But just as the period of Fred Stone, plumber, (1910-1938) was an advance and change from the 1890's, so the 1940's and 50's mark more change to floor furnaces, automatic washing machines and air-conditioning.

Another change was mentioned by Walter Sewell, of the Sewell Plumbing Co., with a shop in Doyle Colony, who came here from Boston in 1919 — there he paid his plumbers \$3.00 a day, and now pays them \$3.25 an hour. This advance and luxury in household plumbing is hardly given a thought (even of gratitude) by the average householder, until the bill comes. But in spite of all the improvement and mass production of household equipment, the "know-how" of the plumber is still needed.

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953

## The Farm Tribune

Published Weekly at Porterville, California  
522 North Main Street Porterville, California

John H. Keck, William R. Rodgers - Co-Publishers

The Farm Tribune was declared a Newspaper of General Circulation on January 10, 1949, by judgment of the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Tulare.

## Farmers Opinion

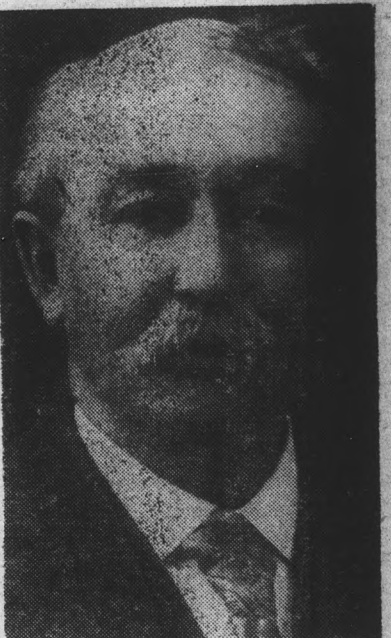
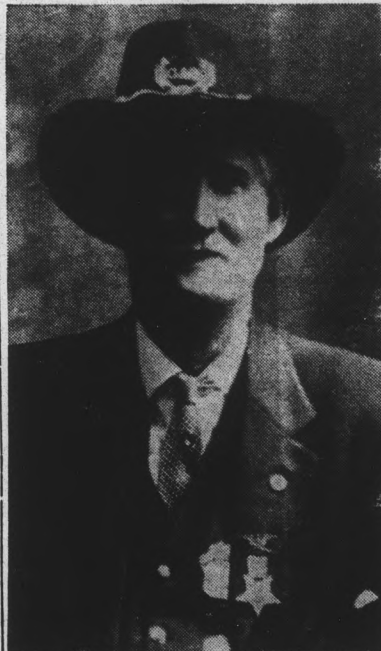
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

clerk, George Held Jr., by J. E. Elliott, manager of the Porterville chamber of commerce.

The committee is now holding hearings in the Pacific Northwest and will meet in Yosemite Valley, Fresno, Sanger, Porterville and Bakersfield early next week. Part of the committee will sit at the farmers' hearings, other members will travel through the national forest areas of the state.

## MAIL CONTRACTS GIVEN TO BIDDERS

PORTERVILLE, Feb. 7, 1902 — The following are the successful bidders for carrying the mail from Porterville postoffice, commencing July 1, this year, daily except Sunday: To White River, John Dunlap, \$700.00 per annum; to Milo, George C. Cunningham, \$900.00 per annum; to Woodville, J. L. Honn, \$597.50 per annum.



TWO EARLY day Porterville business men were Adolph Schulz and James Willson, the above photos showing Mr. Schultz is his later years and Mr. Willson in his younger years. Both came to Porterville from Wisconsin. (Photos courtesy Nell Pratt and J. Howard Williams).



CHARLIE CARROLL, a relative of Tom Simmons, who owned the Mountain Lion saloon in early Porterville, shown holding the lion cub that the saloon was supposedly named after. The picture was taken in the late 1880s.

## HOURGLASS STILL IS IN STYLE

PORTERVILLE, Feb. 7, 1902 — "Most people think that the hourglasses went out of style years ago," says a clerk in a local store, "along with the perukes and knee breeches, but as a matter of fact, we have more calls for them today than we have had at any time within the last 10 years."

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953



## College Pirates Meet Taft Cougars In Armistice Day Football Classic

By Doug Luther

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Annual Armistice Day football game to be played next Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. between the host, Porterville College Pirates, and the visiting Taft College Cougars, shapes up to be quite a ball game for the many fans of both the Pirates and Cougars.

The Taft squad has played five games to date and have a record of four wins and one loss. Three of their four wins were registered over non-league opponents. The other win was registered over the COS Giants in the Cougars' opening league game. The only loss suffered by the boys from the oil city was at the hands of the Fresno Rams who are proving to be the

class of the league.

The Pirates have also played COS and Fresno with the same results the Cougars had, dumping the Giants 14 to 13 and losing to the Rams 24 to 14. Taft whipped the Giants 19 to 13 and was outscored by Fresno 32 to 14. As the scores indicate there is not too much difference between either the Pirates or Cougars.

At this writing, six days before the game, the Pirates have been established as a seven point choice to dispose of the Cougars and gain their third league win against one defeat. The Taft game will end league play for the Pirates. Taft will have one more league game left, that being with the Reedley College Tigers.

The Cougars boast a very flashy

break-away half back in Tom Buck, a little man at 140 pounds. Tom is from Maricopa and before the season opened, had made eyes at the local college. Coach Bob Huffman's charges also have a top rate end in Don Zumbro. Zumbro is noted more for his basketball skill, however, than football.

It's interesting to note that out of the starting eleven for Taft that seven are from the Wolverine state of Michigan. Taft is noted for being able to reach far and wide for fine athletes.

The Pirates have their big guns too. Such backfield talent as Bill Bonner, Vern Rymer, LeRoy Rymer, Demar Lewis and Dick McBride. The big and powerful line these and the other backs operate behind is manned by such bulwarks as Dale Robinson at 230, Dan Baldini 200, Jerry Ward 205, Earl McGahey 220 and the little scrapper at guard, Don Lewis at only 150 pounds.

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PERMIT NO. 55  
Porterville, Calif.

OCCUPANT  
LOCAL

Upwards of 4,000 fans are expected to witness this gridiron battle providing the weather man can give us fair weather. A probable starting team for the Pirates is as follows:

Don Pierson, le.; Earl McGahey, lt.; Don Lewis, lg.; Jerry Ward, c.; Dan Baldini, rg.; Dale Robinson, rt.; Charles Davis, re.; Vern Rymer, lh.; Bill Bonner, rh.; LeRoy Rymer, fb. and Dick McBride, qb.

## Homecoming Set

(Continued From Page One)

year for their annual reunion. A reception in their honor will be held in the afternoon with Mrs. Ruth Olsen of the Porterville Chapter of the Native Daughters in charge.

### SPORTS

For football fans and racing addicts, the afternoon program promises to be one of thrills, chills and spills when the Porterville College Pirates tackle the Taft Wildcats on the high school gridiron, while at the Porterville Speedbowl, 40 hot rods and sprint cars will attempt to shatter track records, and probably will. Both events are slated for 2:00 o'clock.

Concluding the festivities are two evening dances, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall and the Green Mill Ballroom.

### CARNIVAL

Playing now at Poplar highway and highway 65 south of the city is West Coast shows, featuring new carnival rides and sideshow attractions. The carnival will operate throughout the Armistice celebration.

## Springville Dedication

(Continued From Page One)

guests among whom will be former members of the Memorial Board and the present members; supervisors of the county and American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars committee officials. Principal speaker will be State Senator J. Howard Williams, of Porterville.

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953

## RICHFIELD OIL PRODUCTS



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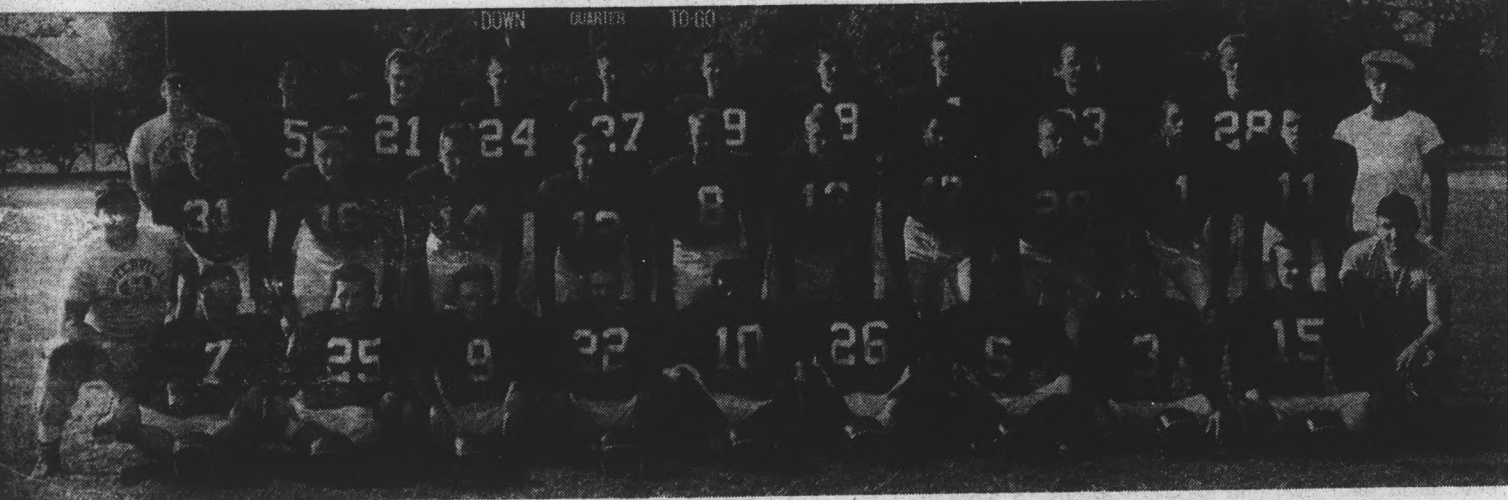
## Concrete Pipe

— IRRIGATION PIPE —  
Installation. Guaranteed

For Better Service To You We Use  
2-Way Radio Communication  
Through Porterville Radio Dispatch.

**NELSON CONCRETE  
PIPE CO.**

Phones: 443 or 120-J Porterville



PORTERVILLE COLLEGE Pirates who will meet Taft college in the Homecoming football game in Porterville, November 11, are, left to right, bottom row: Neil Roberts, Melvin McNeil, Roy Womack, Dick Lawrence, Don Lewis, Herb Barbus, Demar Lewis, Dick McBride, LeRoy Rymer; center row, Harry Hall, Reginald O'Neal, Bill Horst, Jim Gaines, Berrel Post, Vern Rymer, Bill Bonner, Dan Baldini, Vern Dunn, Charles Davis; back row, O. B. Hendrix, Earl McGahey, Gary Patton, Dwaine Keene, Dale Rob-

ertson, Dick Freeman, Don Pierson, Hall and Dick Berryhill; at right, Norman Willweber and Jerry Head Coach Wayne Hardin and Ward. At left are coaches Sid Manager Glen Davis.

## Hot Rods Will Roar At Speedbowl As Afternoon Feature of Homecoming



ONE OF the many sprint cars entered in the big Hot Rod Sprint Car race at Porterville Speedbowl Armistice Day, November 11. Forty entries are expected for this big race of the season, with time trials at 12:30, first race at 2:00 p.m. sharp. Top Hot Rods and Sprint cars from all over Southern California will be running under the famous CRA sanction with 250 horsepower engines in cars that have been clocked at speeds over 150 miles per hour. Many cars will be from Porterville and Northern California to battle it out with the CRA cars from Los Angeles. The local favorites will include Bob Bartlett in Don Farmer's GMC; Bob Hoover in Boydston and Riley's GMC, and Hank Henry in Dr. George Rey's GMC. Besides these Porterville boys will be the Boghosian Brothers' hot Chevy from Tulare, and many cars from Northern California. The boys from Los Angeles say they are bringing enough brute horsepower to Porterville Armistice day to clean house no matter what the local boys are waiting with. After the races, come down into the pit and look these race cars over; the owners and drivers will be glad to show them to you.

## PORTERVILLE Sales and Service PACKARD CARS REO TRUCKS

101 E. Orange Street  
Phone 329 — Porterville

# SENTINEL TV

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SIGNAL AREAS

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PRICE

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We're A New Business In Porterville

But We Still Want To Say

"WELCOME OLDTIMERS"

# TV Center

1525 W. Olive

Porterville

Phone 2189





LUMBER WAS an important item in the early-day building of Porterville, just as it is today and mills in the mountains east of Porterville supplied much of the lumber needed by early-day builders. But lumber was also shipped, with the above photo showing a 10-horse team used in the hauling of lumber from the Mountain Home country. The picture was taken near the Southern Pacific depot in Porterville; riding the horse is Gilbert Hall; standing is Bob Witt, cousin of John Witt. (Photo courtesy Mrs. Alice Witt.)

## Builders Of Early Porterville Homes Did Variety Of Work That Is Now Let Out To Separate Contractors

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Time was when the carpenter did all the work to be done in building a house in Porterville — did the masonry, all the carpentry (now in the separate jobs of framer, roofer, cabinet maker, etc.), the plastering and the painting — no plumbing nor electrical work need-

ed.

We learn this from the dairy and account book of William Gordon. In 1872 he was building a house for C. Waldorf, doing carpenter work and also painting wagons for C. Lumereau (also wagons for Bowens and Carrothers), in 1873 painting for McCaslin and the "pilasters" at Merrill's. Some other

items are: (about 1875) Work on Bond's house 2 1/2 days priming the pilasters, etc., oiling upper porch floor (this is the present Konda house) also "lathing for Bonds", 2 1/2 days on the Hilton house; for for Robert Baker, two days on balustrade, \$6.00, 3/4 day lathing under stairs, \$2.25.

Work at Oliveer's included fixing railing to porch, fixing stairway, roofing, papering, baseboard, 15 days carpenter work for James Kincaid at \$2.50 a day. There is an itemized bill of lumber for Mr. Duncan, with the floor plans drawn in the book, that include an "alley

## The FARM TRIBUNE

THE FARM TRIBUNE PROGRESS EDITION

Thursday, November 5, 1953

SECTION B

way." Here is the "cost of the Eckles house — house and lot, \$900.00; lumber from Roberts (itemized, bds, batten, flooring, etc.); hauling \$24.57; kegs of white lead \$2.50, \$4.00; 20 lbs. nails \$2.00; two redwood posts \$.56; boiled oil, \$8.00; turpentine, \$2.00; painting house, \$40.00; putting up porch, \$30.00; digging cellar and building dining room \$25.00; bored well, and pump \$56.00; grain-ing doors, \$10.00; painting two (Continued On Next Page)

WELCOME  
TO ALL  
VETERANS

PORTERVILLE

# DRIVE-IN THEATRE

WELCOME  
TO ALL  
VETERANS

## MIDNIGHT

TUESDAY, NOV. 10

## Special Price

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This Special Midnight  
Show Honors

**DAN DAILEY**

**GRAND MARSHAL**

Of The Homecoming Parade



## SHOW

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Home  
Operated

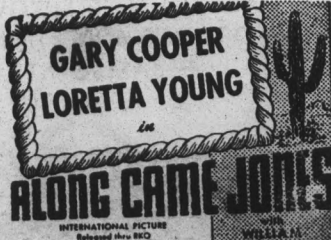


Olive  
Street  
at  
Newcomb  
Drive



VERNE SCHWIN  
Veteran of  
World War II

Sunday - Monday - Tuesday, Nov. 8 - 9 - 10



Wednesday - Thursday, November 11 - 12



C. N. SPIVEY  
Veteran of  
World War II





ONE OF the few pictures taken of Al Laidlaw, early-day Porterville builder, is shown above, with Mr. Laidlaw, seated at ceremonies held in connection with laying the corner stone of the Porterville Masonic Temple on August 5, 1909. Among others identifiable in picture are: Gus Ekman, Leslie Claubes, Robert Williams, Obed W. Carr, Frederick Stone, Wilko Mentz, Todd C. Claubes, Hiram F. Brey, A. G. Schulz, C. H. Claubes, Walter Shippey, Fred W. Velie, Robert Higgins, Bert Sutherland, E. G. Eardley, Nils Baker, Andrew Leslie, J. T. Boller, Gus Leslie, J. C. Roberts, Henry Traeger, Robert Horbach, George Frankum, E. B. Van Duesen, J. C. Hayes and Gerald Lumley.



WIFE OF one of Porterville's early builders — Al Laidlaw — was Minnie McCallion Laidlaw. (Photo courtesy Ada Laidlaw Ralston)

### Gordon, Kessing, Hatton and Murphy All Early Builders

(Continued From Previous Page)

floors and porch \$15.00—amounting to \$1,166.93; insurance on house \$33.50 and \$22.50; chimney, bbl. of lime \$4.50, bricks, \$26.00, putting up \$15.00, equaling \$45.00."

William Gordon was born in Scotland in 1833, came to California in 1867, had a carpenter and cabinet maker's shop in Monterey, came to Tulare county in 1870, married Mary Mullen in 1873. Their daughter is Mrs. Gertrude Oldham. Wm. Gordon was a man of many activities: Notary public, owner of a general mercantile store (at first in the old Mentz building, then in the block of Carroll buildings), postmaster; and active till his death in 1881. Of course there must have been other carpenters before the late

80s when the growing up of Porterville began. Here are some carpenters then and of the next two decades.

#### J. FRED KESSING

John Frederick Kessing was the son of John Ferdinand Kessing, who came from Germany to California in 1849 and whose various activities in the mercantile business and in real estate led him to Tulare in 1874 in connection with the Southern Pacific Railroad Co.'s land development. J. Fred Kessing came to Plano in 1886, and first began road building. He soon had brick kilns at Plano and made brick for both the Pioneer and Arlington hotels; the latter now called Porterville hotel was built in 1887 to accommodate the employees of the newly constructed east side railroad and the S. P. station in Porterville.

Other contracting jobs were: the Rockford schoolhouse, the J. B. Chinn building and some buildings at Tulare. Then he "constructed the second Plano bridge (also driving the piles) after the first bridge, built by George Murphy, had washed out." (Note: it would seem that George Murphy was not in Porterville early enough to have built a "first bridge" — probably a second bridge is referred to.)

"In 1908 he built the bridge at Clark's crossing on Kings river, and about 1910 or '12 the Worth bridge, also those across Deer creek and White river." The Kessing shop at Plano has been mentioned in connection with the Pioneer Bank. He dealt in lumber and also successfully in real estate.

It was his younger son, Clarence, who subdivided the Kessing addition; the latter married Stella V. Thompson and had the two children, Gertrude and Clarence. J. Fred Kessing's older son was Albert who married Italia Ting and went to live in Berkeley; their children were Thalia, Eleanor, Margaret, and Berta Bess.

#### WILLIAM HATTON and GEORGE MURPHY

William Hatton, a Canadian of Irish parentage, came to California in 1860, and to Porterville in 1885. Here he bought the old buildings owned by Ralph Carroll on the east side of Main street

from near Putnam to Mill; and better houses were built there. Or the half block along the railroad tracks on D from Putnam to Cleveland he also built houses for rent. (One house there had been built for his own home by James Shay, who had a general merchandise store; and the home of Louis Pohlman was there.)

Mr. Hatton sold this piece of property to the Southern Pacific Railroad Co. to be the site for a passenger station. It was, however, his son-in-law, George Murphy, who built many of Hatton's buildings, including the Hatton brick building—second door south of Putnam, on the west side of Main.

George Murphy, also a Canadian, came to Porterville in 1896. It has been said that he came to build Leslie's flouring mill. A carpenter who once worked with him called him the king-pin of Porterville contractors. He had much to do with the construction of the Masonic Temple in 1909, and was postmaster from 1916 to 1924.

The Murphys had two daughters, Doris and Lois.

#### THE TEMPLETON BROTHERS

John Templeton came to Porterville in 1890, and his brother Hugh in 1891. They were born in Illinois: John in 1859 (he died in 1923) and Hugh in 1864 (he lived to be 73 years old.) Both were

(Continued on Page 11)

## Over 20 Years Of Service To Porterville



Welcome Veterans and Pioneers On Porterville's Homecoming Day

**FDDY PAINT CO.**  
SPRAY PAINTING

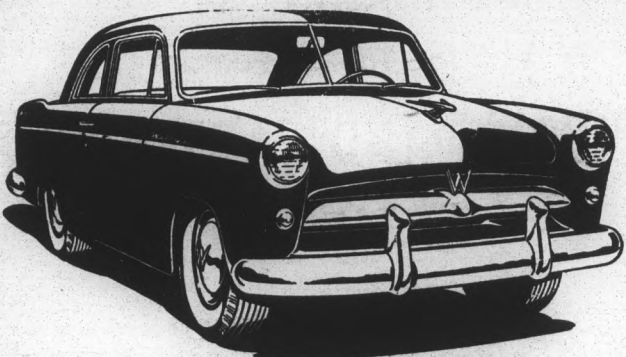
GENERAL PAINT CONTRACTING

I. A. JONES

228 West Putnam

Telephone 236

## Welcome . . . ON HOMECOMING DAY



QUIET, SMOOTH "AIR-BORNE" RIDE

...the nearest thing to flying... And

up to 35 miles per gallon, with overdrive.

*Aero Willys*

**C & M Motors**

CLAUDE H. LETSINGER

Your WILLYS Dealer

930 N. Main St.

Phone 1176

Porterville, California

## Serving Porterville FOR 17 YEARS



LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S READY-TO-WEAR

MAIDENFORM BRASSIERES - CABIN CRAFT SPREADS  
CANNON SHEETS, TOWELS AND BLANKETS  
LORRAINE UNDERTHINGS - ABC FABRICS  
SAMSONITE LUGGAGE  
SEAMPRUF LINGERIE

Dry Goods

**STEVENS**  
DEPARTMENT STORE

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312 N. Main St.

Porterville

Telephone 786



# SUNLIGHT BAKERY ...

Serving The San Joaquin Valley Since 1934



PORTERVILLE — 1953

FROM THE 100 MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION  
COMES A CORDIAL

***Welcome All***

on Porterville's Homecoming Day

***And Now . .***

We have a branch in Bakersfield to serve 450 outlets in Kern County, supplementing our original Porterville plant.

***Also a "Thank You"***

For your patronage during the past two decades — patronage that has made possible our expansion from a two-man business 20 years ago into a two-city business that employs 100 people, operates 31 trucks, and serves 1100 outlets in Tulare, Kern, Kings and Fresno Counties.

Bakers of **SUNBEAM BREAD**

Gene Bluekle, Jerry Hildebrand and 100 Loyal Employees of the Sunlight Bakery Organization

**PORTERVILLE**

HOME OF

**Sunbeam Bread**

Putnam and Second — Porterville





# CHARLES NIEMAN WAS EARLY PLUMBER IN PORTERVILLE; STARTED AT HOCKETT STORE

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Charles Nieman is one of the earliest plumbers now remembered in Porterville; and he is spoken of as a good workman. John Witt was trained by him, and probably others were. He was born in 1862 in Illinois and came to California when about 21 years old; he died in 1943 in Southern California.

By an early marriage he had a daughter, Edith, who went to live in Alameda. At Porterville he married Mrs. Clara Hepburn Loughhead, who had two children: Jess Loughhead and Jeanne Loughhead Wheeler. Their children were Dorothy Nieman (Mrs. Reuben Giliam) and Anton Nieman. The Nieman home early this century was the second house on the east side of D Street north of Putnam; the first house was the I. T. Hallford home. In 1908 they went to live on West Putnam at Villa.

It was probably as early as 1890 that Charles Nieman came to Porterville; he was the plumber and tinsmith for Hockett's Hardware store, both at its location at the end of Main from 1888 to 1891 and at the Putnam building location on Main. In the latter location the plumbing shop was on Division Street back from Mill Street. There was also a blacksmith shop there off from Hockett and Mill streets, where the blacksmith Phillips shod horses almost on the sidewalk. Charles Nieman also was at times in the shop belonging to the DeLaney Hardware store off Putnam near Hockett.

Much of the time he had his own shop, and part of the time a

hardware store of his own. Probably the earliest location of his store was on the east side of Main street a bit north of Mill. Early there were wooden buildings along that block for years after the Pioneer bank was built at the north corner; in these there were a variety of businesses including furniture, undertaking, and even a blacksmith shop. When buildings began to be torn down there for reconstruction, Charles Nieman took his hardware business around the corner of the block on to Mill street beyond the alley, before or by 1899, and was there several years. This building was the one torn down in 1948 to make room for the Porter Theatre; it had before then housed the Red Cross room and Mrs. Edith Williams' office.

Charles Nieman's daughter can remember playing among the tins in the shop back of the hardware store and also remembers the scales in front of the store where loads of hay were weighed, and the fat man who always got off the load before it was weighed; no one could catch him on the scales. Also Charles Nieman had his hardware store on Mill street at Division (later the site of the Molino Theatre.) It was here when he sold to Bert Sutherland, who moved the stock to the present Porterville Hardware store in connection with Charles Holston. The picture of the interior of the Nieman Hardware store shows the tubs and sinks made in the shop and the kind of cooking and heating stoves then used, and also gives a picture of Charles Nieman him-

self, with John Witt. Still he continued the sheet metal work and plumbing, and had a little shop off Main, south of the narrow alley between Main and Division street (or is it Hockett?) south of the Slough; this was then called Ackerman Alley because of the building of Fred Ackerman north of it on Main. After the family moved in 1908 to West Putnam the tin or sheet metal shop was there; and in it were many interesting patterns that Charles Nieman had contrived and cut from sheet metal, among them cornices such as those which, cut out

the old Charles Nieman hardware store, shown above. John Witt is

on the left, Mr. Nieman on the right. (Photo courtesy Roy Witt)



## BURTON SCHOOL

BURTON, Sept. 9, 1897 — The Burton district school will open on Monday, September 13, with Miss

Zona Williams of Visalia as teacher. The schoolhouse has been completely renovated and repaired.

## ARM BROKEN

PORTERVILLE, Jan. 8, 1913 — Fracture of both bones of the left forearm was sustained by Harold Duncan when he fell on the floor of the skating rink. The young man was taken to the office of Dr. Barber, where the bones were set.

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953

# SERVING

## BUILDERS — HOME OWNERS — BUSINESS MEN OF PORTERVILLE COMMUNITY FOR 64 YEARS

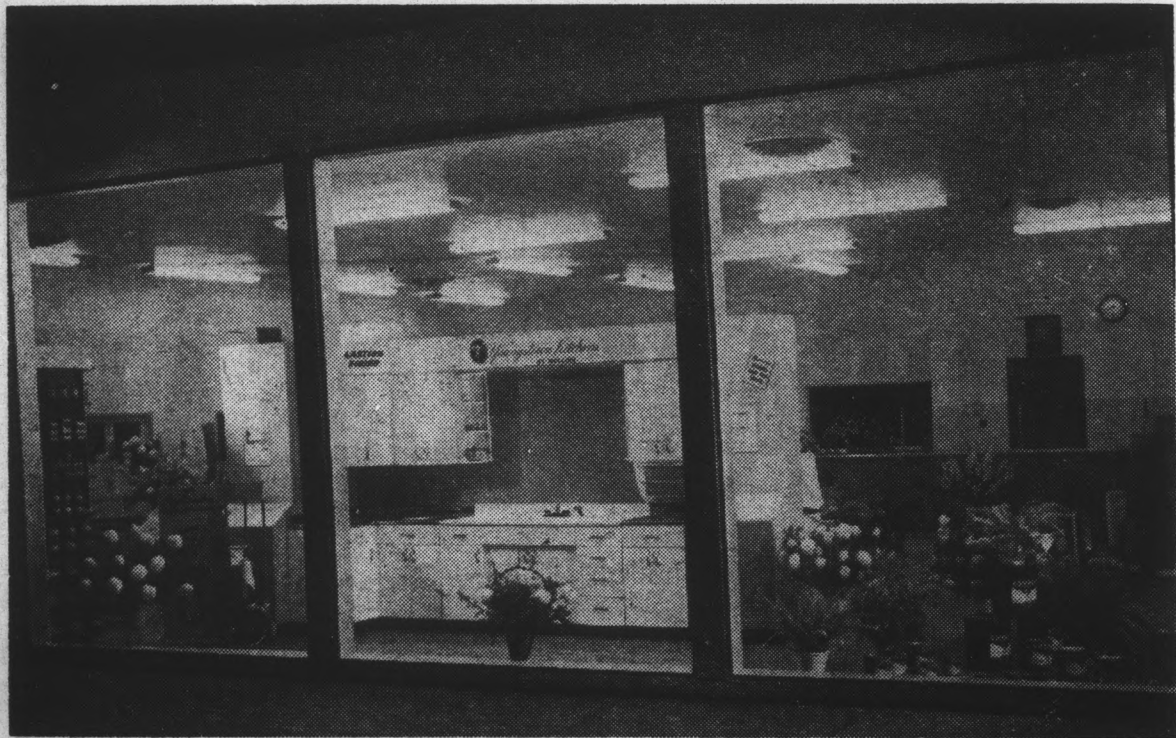


Photo Taken at Opening of Our Present Modern Store and Office Building  
November 10, 1948

Again We Send Our  
Greeting to "Oldtimers"  
and "Newcomers" Alike  
On This Glorious  
Homecoming Day

# Brey-Wright Lumber Co.

Formerly Porterville Lumber Co. — Now Porterville's Oldest Lumber Yard

Branches At  
PORTERVILLE

TERRA BELLA

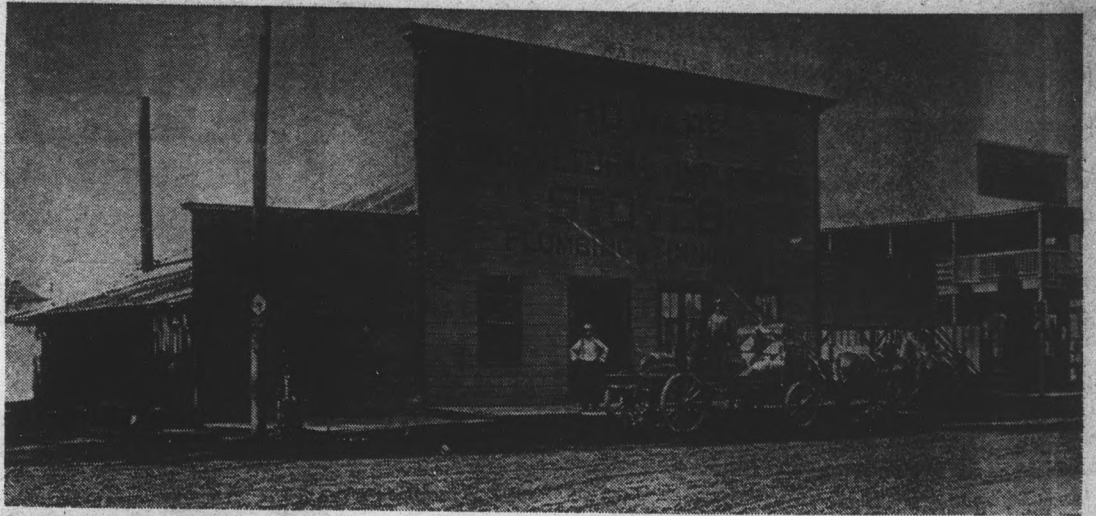
COTTON CENTER



# Early Hardware Stores Performed Many Services; Developed Into Single Type Business As Town Expanded

By Ina H. Stiner  
PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — In Porterville of the 90's, hardware stores definitely contributed to the building progress. The view of the interior of Charles Nieman's hardware store shows tubs and sinks, made of sheet metal by himself as a tinsmith, as well as the stoves and heaters of that day. Also hardware stores contributed pipe for the plumbing as the new water system was extended into homes and gas from carbide plants was used for lighting. That was why each hardware store had its plumbing and tinning shop. They worked together.

Nieman was tinsmith and plumber for the Hockett Hardware store; both he and John Witt at times did that work for Joe DeLaney's



HOCKETT HARDWARE store was located at Olive and Main and George Russell is said to have had a barley mill in the building at one time. In the above picture, board sidewalk in front of the building can be seen and, at the left, is a hand water pump. On the right

can be seen a corner of a building that was erected by Felix McCabe, who had a lodging house upstairs, according to Frank Witt; there was a grocery store downstairs and Mrs. Scott remembers that a dentist had an office upstairs and that a Mr. Sorrel, from Plano, had

a repair shop in the downstairs part. Mr. McCabe was an active, early citizen of Porterville; his daughter, Katherine, was a teacher and married Mr. Rush of Tulare, also a teacher. Above picture was taken about 1898.

(Photo courtesy Hammond)



EARLY-DAY hardware man in Porterville was A. J. "Joe" DeLaney, shown with his wife above. His store was located about where Ken's sport shop now is; his wife

served on the early library board and a window in the Porterville Methodist church is dedicated to her memory.

(Photos courtesy Gladys Lightner)

hardware store; and B. J. or Joe Fontaine, for the Schulz and Willson hardware store. Charles Nieman's hardware store combined the two; and now in our day the plumbing shops carry their own pipe, hardware and bathroom and kitchen equipment. Porter Putnam and Robert Baker had, of course, carried the needed hardware in their early general merchandise stores. But after Porter Putnam's death and after his stock was sold off, the movement of the 90's of putting into separate stores the hardware, the dry goods, and the groceries, began in the Putnam building. Although the J. Will Burfords continued in the south part of that building an establishment including all but hardware, arranged in departments, in the north part of the building there was the hardware store of John B. Hockett's sons, then of Schultz and Willson.

## THE HOCKETT HARDWARE STORE

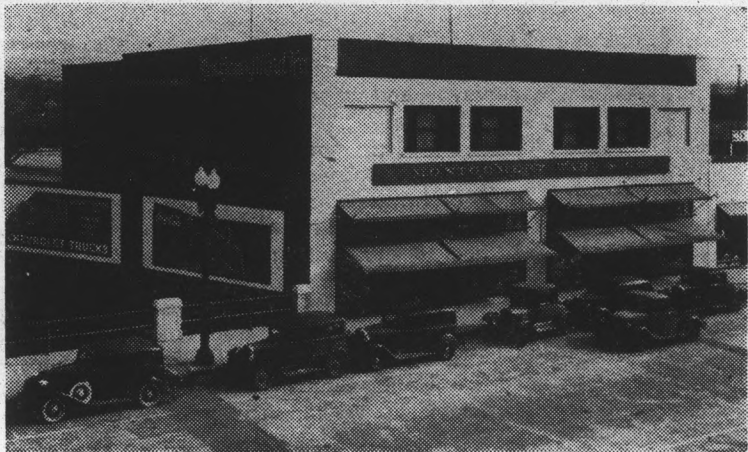
The Hocketts were among the earliest pioneers, for John B. Hockett came to California in 1849 and had a general merchandise store in Visalia by 1859 and in 1864 bought the Clapp place in Porterville, adjoining Porter Putnam on the west of Division street and contributing part of the beginning of Porterville as well as later subdivisions.

Here he farmed and had a large vineyard across which now run D, E, and F streets, etc. The home was where the Clapp house had stood on high ground south of the present postoffice. It is said that Mrs. Hockett would not let those who were later grading streets cut down her knoll because it had more than once been above flood waters that might come again; it has also been told that Mr. Hockett kept a boat in those early days tied to

the oak tree in the yard. This house is soon to be removed because the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has bought that half block.

Mrs. Hockett was a McGee — a family well represented in the Tule river area. The children were Ben, Robert, Barton, Lenni (Mrs. Henry Allen) and Dora (Mrs. Eugene Scott). John B. Hockett was instrumental in persuading the Southern Pacific Railroad company to bring its east side line through Porterville in 1888 — part of the persuasion being the 100-foot strip through his land from Morton street to the river.

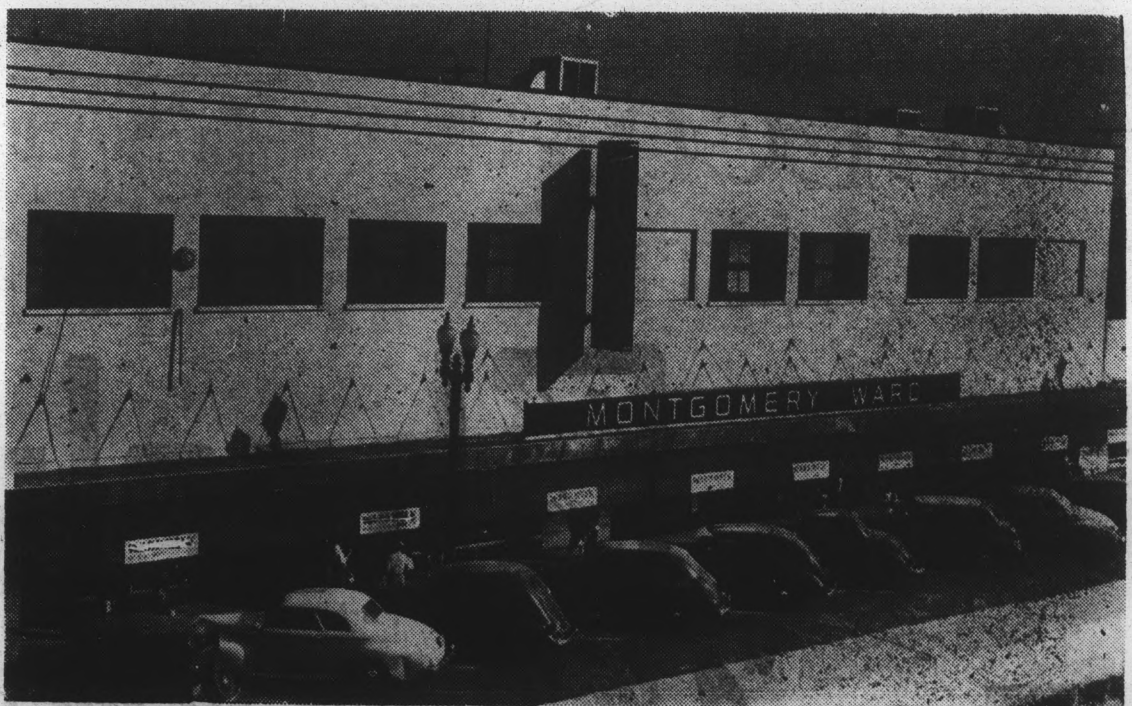
The sale of subdivisions doubtless was not as profitable as subdivisions are now-a-days; but Mr. Hockett was a good business man and a good farmer and a sheepman; he had other land, such as the ranch property at White River (Continued On Next Page)



MONTGOMERY WARD — — — — — 1928

# Montgomery Ward Has PROGRESSED with Porterville

★  
As Porterville has grown through the years, the Montgomery Ward store has expanded its facilities to meet the needs of the community . . . We are proud to have served Porterville . . . To have grown with it . . . And to the hundreds of friends who, through their patronage, have made possible our growth, we say Thank You . . . We appreciate your patronage of our store . . . We appreciate serving you . . . We hope to continue to serve you . . . And again, Thank You, Porterville.



MONTGOMERY WARD — — — — — IN 1953

130 North Main Street

*Montgomery Ward*

Porterville, Calif.



## Hockett Hardware Was Among First

(Continued From Previous Page) now owned by Mrs. Scott's children — Cyril Scott and Mrs. Sybil Pogue and her husband, James. In 1888 Mr. Hockett established his sons in a hardware business on Olive street at the end of Main street. At that time on reaching the end of Main, one had to drive on Olive street half a block and turn onto C street to go on south; so when Main street became a part of the longer highway, now known as No. 65, it was better to widen the alley through those blocks, between C and South Hockett and continue Main street to a bridge across the river. When that happened, the building that had housed Hockett's store was moved away. But before that happened, the Hockett Hardware company had moved into the north part of the Putnam building, in 1891.

Rather soon they sold to Adolph Schulz and James Willson. (Note:

the writer cannot surely verify these last two statements; naturally, after 60 years, "witnesses" do not agree. It is almost too late to write an accurate history of the comings and goings in that landmark of Porterville buildings — erected in 1889-90 by Porter Putnam; at his death coming into the possession of a San Francisco firm; shortly bought by Fred Ackerman; sold by him in 1902 to T. L. Price, whose descendants sold in 1949 to Hodgson Realty Co. Comings and goings of lodges, church meetings, photographers, mercantile businesses! Will anyone who wants to undertake that history let us know?)

### SCHULZ AND WILLSON HARDWARE STORE

Adolph Schulz was brought from Germany to the United States while still a baby in 1849; he grew up in Tomah, Wisconsin. There he married in 1876 Miriam Weed (1856-1933). They had three children, the youngest of whom, Nel-

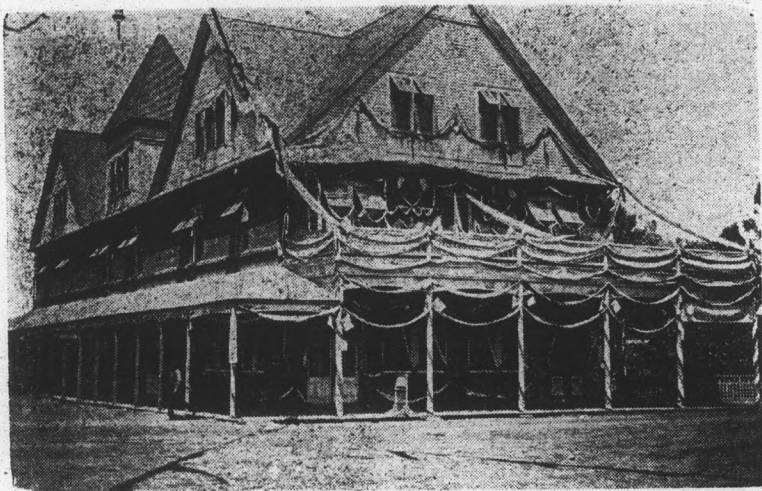


THE A. J. DeLaney hardware store

is shown at left of the above picture, next to I. T. Hallford's general merchandise store and with the Pioneer hotel in the background. A cow can be seen on the extreme right of the picture, walking down Main street and apparently a number of cattle are

bunched together at the corner of Main and Putnam. An old-fashioned street light hangs at the intersection; Main street is nothing but dirt and a famous Porterville board sidewalk can be seen in front of the DeLaney store.

## WELCOME FRIENDS



**For 64 Years The Pioneer Hotel Has Been  
Welcoming Visitors To Porterville . . .**

May we again extend a cordial invitation to visit us  
when you are in Porterville and to make "The Pioneer"  
your Homecoming headquarters.

## PIONEER HOTEL

OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE STARKS FAMILY FOR THE LAST 14 YEARS  
Putnam and Main Phone 400 Porterville, Calif.

lie Pratt, lives in Porterville. The two sons, older than Mrs. Frank Pratt, are not living; Harry (or Hal) A. Schulz after leaving the hardware store was with a mercantile firm in Fresno, and then went to Goodrich's in San Francisco, where he became manager; Lou Ernest Schulz became an architect's draftsman for the DuPont plants, but died in 1927.

Adolph Schulz's sister, Louisa Schulz, married James Willson; their children were: Anna Norris, well known in Porterville; A. D. Willson, who with his brother-in-law, Walter Norris, started the Tulare County Title Abstract Co. in Visalia; Isabel Willson, a teacher in Los Angeles, and Robert M. Willson, a surveyor and chemist, now living in Victorville.

A half sister of Mrs. Adolph Schulz, Edith Howard, married in Porterville in 1896, J. H. Williams, who came to Porterville from New Jersey. They had seven children: Helen Williams; Amelia Anderson, who has lived much abroad; Katherine Carr; Margaret Jones; J. Howard Williams, our present state senator; Richard Williams, a rancher in Oregon; and Philip Williams who lives in Riverside. Adolph Schulz and James Willson came to Porterville in 1888 and brought their families in 1889. With others from Tomah, Wisconsin, they contributed much in various ways

to Porterville's growth.

On their arrival by train in Porterville, Mrs. Schulz (who had been a teacher) was depressed by the flies swarming around the screen door of the hotel; and the boy, Hal, was much disappointed when he found that watermelons did not grow on trees in California. Adolph Schulz had had a grocery in Wisconsin; and his daughter thinks that it was rather soon after coming to Porterville that he went into the hardware business with James Willson as partner, for she has understood that they had the store when her mother took a trip East in 1893 when Lou was a child.

Joe Fontaine was the tinner and plumber for Schulz and Willson; and his shop, west of Division, was said to have been well-equipped. The Fontaine children were Leo, Emma, Lilly, and Mabel.

A. Schulz and James Willson early bought land north of the county road (Putnam Avenue) along with Hiram Brey, across from the present Murry park. Schulz and Willson each had 13 acres; and both built houses and planted orange trees. After the hardware business was sold James Willson lived on his orange grove property.

There is a picture of the Schulz home and the young orange grove; the house was built about 1895 and is still standing. After an es-

(Continued On Next Page)

## WELCOME HOME VETERANS and PIONEERS

*Sales Service*  
**Sheela**

616 N. Main - Porterville - Phone 1430

**"A Good Sign To Go Buy"**

CHECK OUR FALL LIQUIDATION SALE



GASOLINE and DIESEL  
1/2 TO 20 TONS

OF GOOD

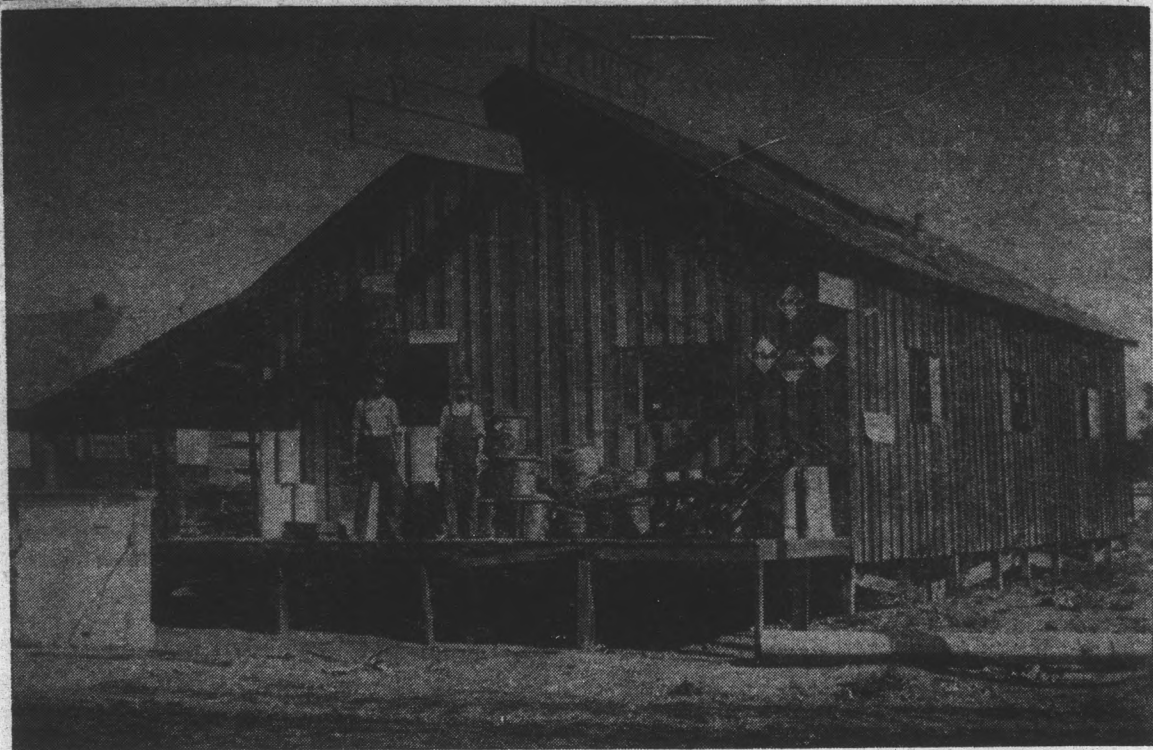


USED CARS

**OLDSMOBILE!**







CHARLES NIEMAN hardware store in early days, probably at present location of the Porter Theatre. Plows, rolls of barbed wire and stoves can be seen on the porch; a scale is located at the left. (Photo courtesy Mrs. R. C. Gilliam.)

### Schulz, Willson, Nieman and DeLaney Hardwares

(Continued From Previous Page) pecially good orange crop Mr. Schulz had A. Laidlaw make some additions to the house; his daughter was disappointed because these did not include a tower corner like some fashionable houses she had seen in San Jose. Adolph Schulz was an engineer graduated from the University of Wisconsin. He supervised the plantings on the Winterhaven

property of J. H. Williams. The subdivision that includes Tomah and Wisconsin streets was a project of Adolph Schulz. Beginning in 1912 or '13 he was the Tulare County Horticultural Commissioner for several years. The Schulz and Willson hardware store was located in the north side of the Porter Putnam building after they bought out the Hockett hardware. (Wm. Maston says Hocketts were still there in 1895 when he came.

The Schulz & Willson store may have been first set up somewhere else. They sold to Thos. L. Price when he bought the building in 1902 or '03; the Price hardware store was carried on there by his sons, Fred and Bam, and his daughter Kathleen and her husband Tim Warden until they sold in 1949 to Hodgson Realty Co.

#### THE DELANEY HARDWARE STORE

A. J. DeLaney, called Joseph, was born in 1852 in Ogdensburg, N. Y., and died in Porterville in 1916. His father had a factory in Canada and took his family there in 1855 but removed to South Dakota.

In 1890 he came to Hanford, California, and went into the hardware business.

(Continued On Next Page)

### SANTA FE BUYS PROPERTY IN LINDSAY

LINDSAY, Jan. 8, 1913 — The Santa Fe railroad has bought 20 acres of land inside the corporate limits of Lindsay on which to erect a depot and yards for side tracks. The land is situated just west and north of the Lincoln grammar school.

The Santa Fe is building its road into Exeter and last week some of their officials were here perfecting arrangements to build into Lindsay. We are told that as soon as possible, the road will be built to Strathmore and Porterville, thence over the mountains to connect with the main line near Owen's lake.

See You In Porterville November 11, 1953



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### ALL TO PORTERVILLE ON HOMECOMING DAY

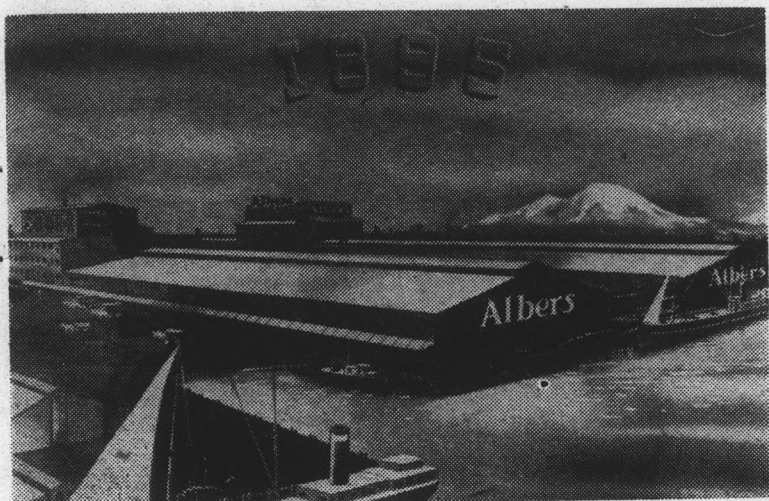
Our store is new in Porterville and we invite you to come in to see our complete line of toys.

We Also Carry "Universal" Electrical Appliances For the Home

## The Toy Haven

322 N. Main St.

Porterville



### A HEARTY WELCOME

from

## Albers Milling Co.

and

### A FRIENDLY GREETING

from

## Porterville Feed & Seed



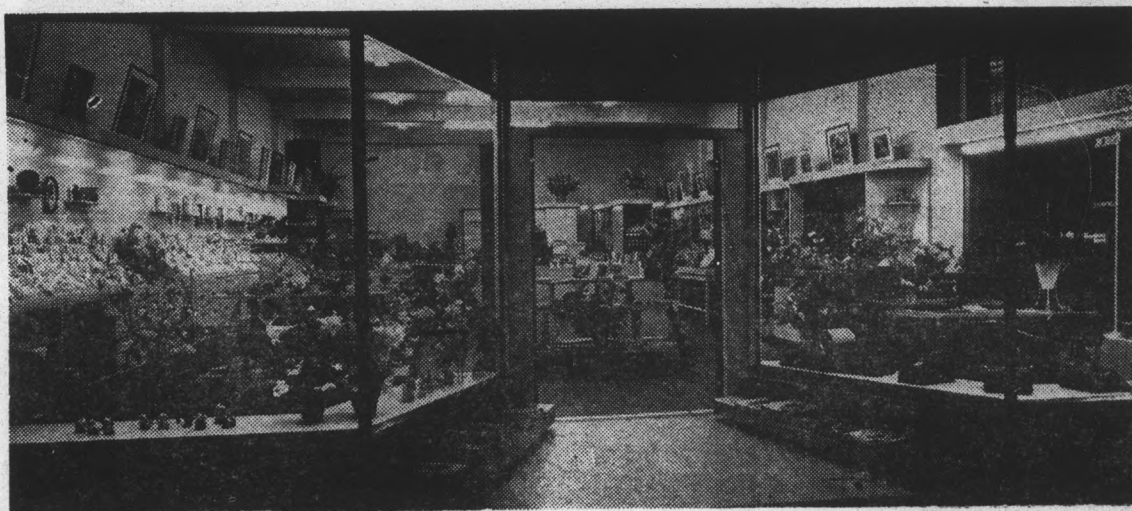
D Street at Oak

PORTERVILLE

Phone 41

1897

1953



DESKS, CHAIRS, FILES for Every Office Need



YOUR COMPLETE STATIONERY STORE FOR THE PAST 56 YEARS



OFFICE SUPPLIES

GIFTS — BOOKS — FRAMED PICTURES GREETING CARDS — FOSTORIA GLASSWARE

## Gibson Stationery Store

CORNER PUTNAM AND MAIN STREETS

PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA



**Schulz, Willson, Nieman and DeLaney Hardwares**  
(Continued From Previous Page)  
ware business; in 1895 he established a branch store in Porterville, in the brick Hatton building on the west side of Main, second door south of Putnam. In 1899 he sold his Hanford store, and the next

year came to Porterville to live, his home being one of the Pioneer Land Co.'s row of houses east of Sunnyside along Morton Street. He incorporated his hardware business in 1902 as the A. J. DeLaney Co.

He had married in Canada Jennie Anderson (1853-1932); they had no children. Both were active in church; he was a member of the Chamber of Commerce; and she was on the Library Board. Her nephew, Harry Kirkland, came to Porterville in 1910; and his brother, Harry DeLaney (Alfred Henry), then about 60 years of age, came from North Dakota to be associated with him in the store.

In the Harry DeLaney family were three children: Cory (or James Corydon) DeLaney (born in 1884), who was in partnership in a Porterville grocery store, then had an executive position in the magnesite mine here while it was producing magnesite for war purposes, later went to the State of Washington to the Zellerbach Paper Co., and was in Salinas at the time of his death.

Frank DeLaney was born in 1888 and in 1945 died in Placerville; he had never recovered from the effects of his service in the first World War; he was a mechanic; he married Arzella Shore; and their daughter, Frances is a nurse. Gladys, the youngest DeLaney, is the wife of D. R. Lightner, who recently retired after serving as principal of the Strathmore High School for many years. The Lightners have two daughters, both married.

With the Delaneys in the hardware store were at different times the following hardware men: Samuel J. R. Gilbert (father of Mrs. Fred Velie) who had been in the hardware business in Visalia and had had a store also in Porterville; Joseph Mitchell, who had twin daughters, Flora and Bess, and who was associated in partnership with J. W. Thomas in a hardware business later in this Hatton building, but after that went to Tulare; and Charles Boline, who became associated with Bert Sutherland in the hardware business at another location and later bought Bert



FOUR GENERATION of Hocketts are shown: Mrs. John B. Hockett, with great grandchild on lap; Ben Hockett and his daughter, Gladys Hockett Minet. (Photo courtesy Mrs. Dora Hockett Scott)

Sutherland's store in Berkeley.

In the DeLaney tinning and plumbing shop back of the store and across Division Street, Charles Nieman and John Witt were the smiths at different times. John Witt, finally in 1914, bought this shop and being moved to Morton Street next to Fourth it still serves as a tin shop and plumbing shop, the oldest such shop in town. On the half block from which Witt moved this shop J. W. Thomas erected the present building along

the Putnam Street frontage; later it was owned by Robert Kendall of the Pioneer Hotel who sold it to Homer Wood, publisher of the Porterville Recorder.

In the sheet-metal building behind this Thomas building, Claude Bradley had his last plumbing shop facing Division Street, while in the end of the building facing Hockett Street, B. Youngman, who afterwards went to Visalia, had a garage.

Welcome . . .

Veterans and Pioneers

★ ★ ★

Make Your Tires  
Last Longer

with

EXPERT TIRE SERVICE

FREE INSPECTION

TIRES { Rotated  
Repaired  
Recapped } IF NEEDED

Best TRADE-IN DEAL in Town



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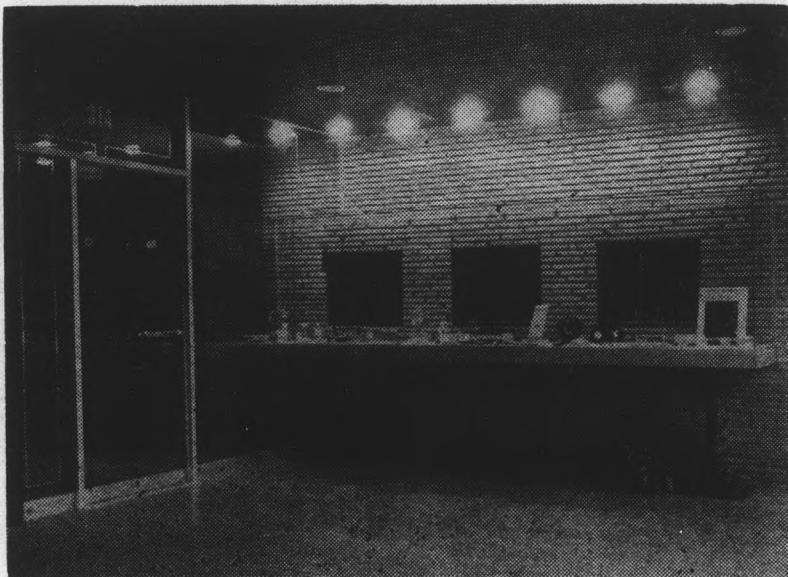
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**PRESENT HOME** of Milo Ough, at Grevilla and Oak street, is one of the city's old homes, being built in 1887 by Mrs. T. P. Johnson, who, the next year, married Robert Baker. (Farm Tribune photo)



**FIRST REAL** estate boom came in the very early days of Porterville when the city's founder, R. Porter Putnam, offered free home building sites to anyone starting a business in Porterville. The house shown above is one of Porterville's oldest, having been moved from Vandalia and placed on one of the free Putnam lots. The house, located just east of the Santa Fe tracks on the north side of Mill street is still in use. (Farm Tribune photo)

## Old Houses Of Porterville Tie In With Histories Of Pioneer Families

By Ina H. Stiner

### THE HOCKETT HOUSE

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — This house on the half block at Hockett, Oak and D streets, is probably the oldest house still standing in Porterville; its days are numbered because this half block has been bought by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, for their new office building. This house was built on the site of what was probably the third house built in the present limits of Porterville — the first being that of Elisha Packwood not far west of Murry park about 1854, and long gone; the second was Peter Goodhue's station on the old emigrant road about where the new marker commemorates the state station.

On the site of the present Hockett house was that of Israel Clapp, built by 1857, and perhaps

earlier. John B. Hockett bought the Clapp property in 1864 and may have used part of the Clapp house as a kitchen annex, so his daughter thought, when he built this present house about 1874. The Hockett house as shown with the photograph of the family was remodeled by the addition of more porches and of more rooms at the back about 1887.

### THE GEORGE HOUSE

This house (617 East Mill Street) was brought from Vandalia some time in the 1870's and located on a lot given away to promote the growth of young Porterville. Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Gregg George had the house moved over here. Dr. S. G. George had been a doctor in Visalia at its beginning and the physician for the old Tule River Indian reservation; but he loved to prospect for mines and

helped explore Death Valley as early as 1860; this house in Porterville was the home of his old age.

Mrs. George was Sarah Bond Wilcox (1820-1909) before her marriage to Dr. George (1807-1903 about). The house back of this house and facing Putnam also came from another spot; it was the house on the Sardis Wilcox ranch at South Tule river taken apart and rebuilt here for Mrs. Martha Wilcox Templeton; the lumber, etc., in it had originally come from Inyo county. J. Pat Murry also brought a house from

Vandalia, to the southwest corner of Mill and Fig streets; it long since gave place to the Velie house, now the home of Mrs. Less Guthrie.

### THE JOHNSON-BAKER HOUSE

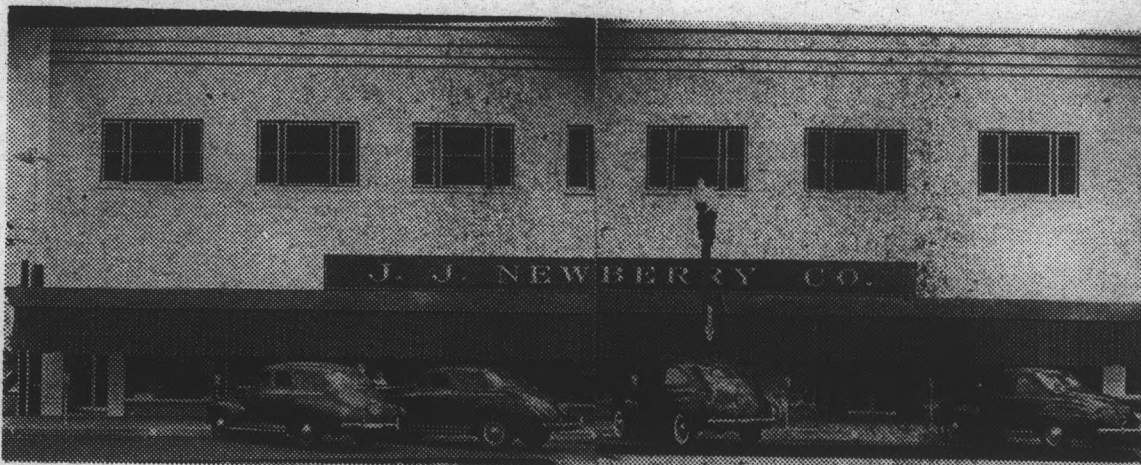
This house, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milo Ough, on the northeast corner of Grevilla and Oak streets, was built in 1887 by Mrs. T. P. Johnson, who the next year married Robert Baker. She was Ellen Hilton, member of the Hilton family who came to Porterville in 1870. T. P. Johnson, an early day

cattleman, who died in 1879, had owned part of the land now in Murry Park and also a partnership in the mill there. This house was sold in 1906 to Mr. and Mrs. Amos Reynolds who had come from Nebraska and had a ranch up Tule river.

With them was an unmarried son, Henry, and their daughter and her husband, Milo Ough. Milo Ough had a general merchandise store on the east side of Main street, the third door south of Putnam; he also was a grain grower and orange grower.

## PORTERVILLE PROGRESS WALKS HAND-IN-HAND WITH AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE

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PORTERVILLE STORE — 1953



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Porterville

Phone 1838



**OLD HOUSES** were usually good houses, as evidenced by the fact that the above house was built by William Duncan, manager of the Pioneer Water Company in the early days. It was remodelled several years ago by Jim Richards and is now owned by the D. B. McKerschers. Well-kept and with a nice yard, the old house is still one of the community's attractive homes. (Farm Tribune photo)



# Painters and Paper Hangers Played Part In Community Development

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953.

House painting and paper hanging have usually been the combined work of one man; and these men have contributed to Porterville's growth. The following are a few of the painters of the 1890's and the first decade of this cen-

tury.

## HARRY DAVIS

Harry Davis is remembered in Porterville as a painter and paper hanger before and just after the beginning of this century, then going to Visalia, he became a chief of police and deputy sheriff. His wife was Laura May, and their

son, Orly C. Davis, has been an attorney in Visalia.

Harry Davis, born in 1870, was the son of P. P. Davis and came in 1875 to the Porterville area with his father, who bought in 1880 the large frame building built by R. P. Merrill at the northwest corner of Mill and Main streets for a drug store. P. P. Davis then erected there the present brick building.

The P. P. Davis home on the northwest corner of Putnam and



HOME OF Robert Millick and his wife, Jennie Daley Millick, at Mill and Fourth streets. The old house is now being demolished to make way for a modern business building. (Photo courtesy Edwin Daley)

Hockett was torn down last year; it was built in the 1890's and was considered one of the show places.

Harry Davis remembered the flower-covered plains out beyond Poplar when they first arrived in this area, and the contrast two years later when those plains were strewn with the gruesome bones of drought-starved cattle. It is pleasant to think that his memory was more of the usual spring beauty as he went about his vocation of beautifying houses.

## ROBERT MILLICK AND SON, ROY MILLICK

Robert Millick and his wife, who was Jennie Daley, came from Idaho to Porterville early in the 1890's. They had two sons: the elder, Roy Millick, now deceased, was associated with his father as painter and paper hanger; the younger, Earl Millick, became a mechanic and now lives in Ontario, California, having charge of the machinery in orange packing houses. Mrs. Millick is still living, in a rest home in Ontario.

Robert Millick's paint shop was on the south side of Mill Street near Second—in a building that once served John Witt as a plumbing shop and where later Fred Stone had his shop. Al Bloss was a painter who worked with Robert Millick. Roy Millick used a building back of the Millick home for a shop. The two Millick boys are remembered as high school athletes.

The Porterville home of the Millicks' near the southwest corner of Mill and Fourth streets was one of the fine houses of Porterville built near the beginning of the century; it was mainly built by Mr. Millick himself. There is a picture of the house; and the photograph of the James Daley family was taken there on the porch steps. The house was lately sold by Earl Millick to the Burford and Hubler law firm of Porterville and is being removed to give place to an office building.

## HARRY BURNETTE AND OTHERS

East of the alley between Main and Second streets, on the north side of Mill street, was a building

with the squared front typical of early stores; it was removed to make way for the Porter Theatre. At that time it housed the Red Cross office and storerooms. Earlier the east part was the office of Mrs. Edith Williams who owned the building. This building was once used by Chas. Nieman as a hardware store.

In 1916 when Jerry Jones came to Porterville from Long Beach as a painter, the west part of this building was occupied by Harry Burnette, a painter, as a sales place for paint, glass, etc., but also where Burnette framed photographs for Eschol Hammond and others. Burnette did a great deal of house painting.

J. Jones worked for Burnette as well as for Roy Millick, then in 1920 set up his own shop with Bert Phillips next to Quiram's blacksmith shop on Second and Oak streets, and began taking contracts. Both of J. Jones' sons, Ira and Tommy, became painters; and Ira still is in that work as a contractor with a shop on West Putnam.

## Army of Unemployed Marches To Terra Bella From Porterville

TERRA BELLA, Jan. 8, 1913 — The army of unemployed, which is approaching from Porterville, will be escorted officially out of Tulare county, if plans of people living in the southeastern end of the county are carried out.

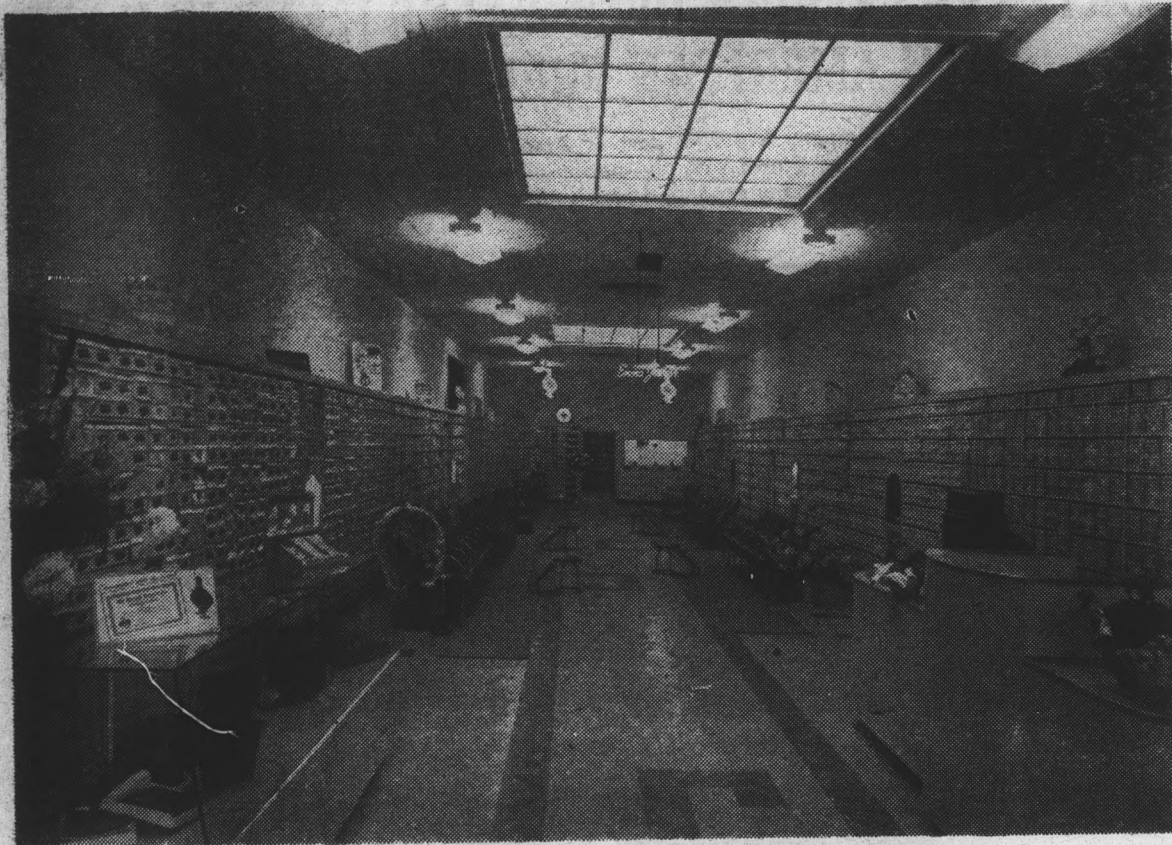
An appeal has been made to Sheriff Collins by Terra Bella to provide a number of peace officers to see the army safely out of the county. There being no large towns between Porterville and Bakersville, it is feared the army may forage.

The army of unemployed, 150 strong, left Porterville Sunday. Arrangement is being made to feed the army at Terra Bella and Ducor, at county expense. There are warehouses at both Terra Bella and Ducor, where the men could be housed if necessary.



PROBABLY PORTERVILLE'S oldest house that is still standing is shown above — the Hockett house, built about 1874 by John B. Hockett, who purchased the property from Israel Clapp and who might have used part of the original Clapp house that was constructed prior to 1857. (Farm Tribune photo)

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Gerald (Chub) Lamb

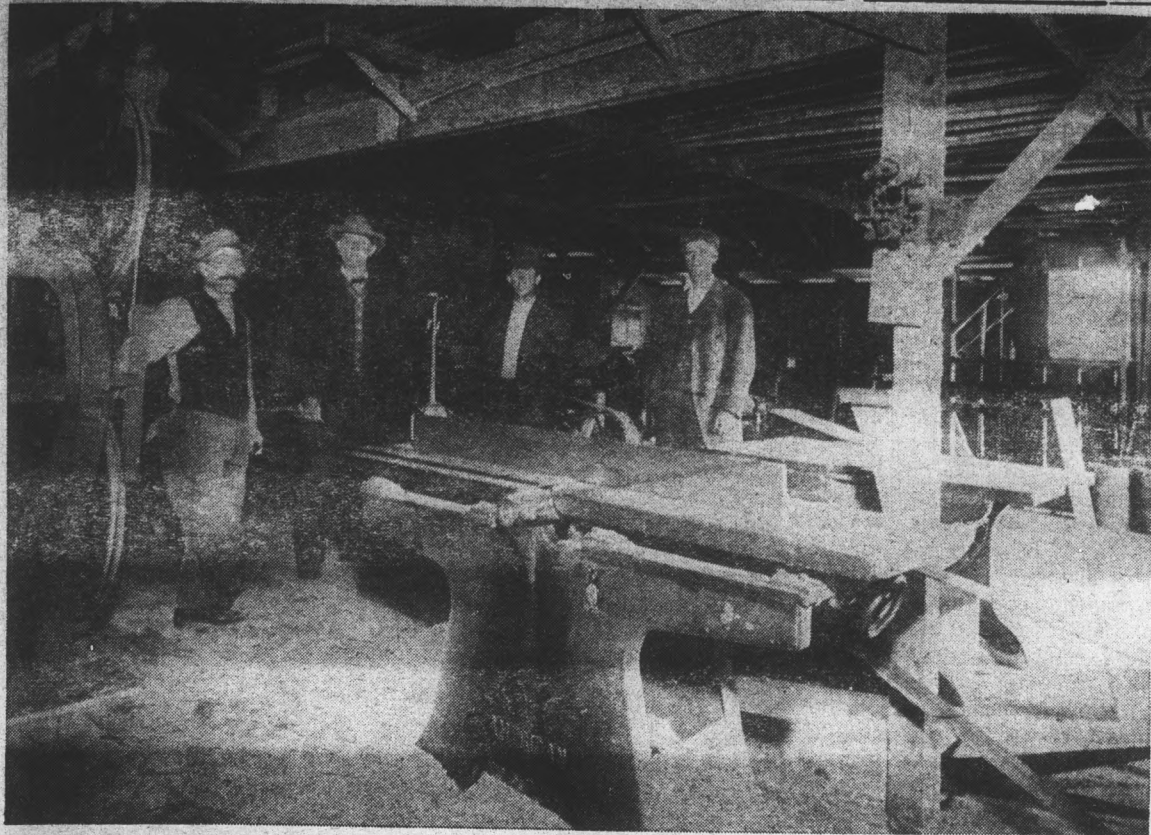
**FIRESTONE** TIRES AND BATTERIES  
**TEXACO** GASOLINE, OILS AND LUBRICANTS

Putnam and Hockett  
Porterville



Charles (Eloy) Bilhou





INTERIOR VIEW of the Templeton shop, at Putnam avenue and Third street, showing, from left to right, Hugh Templeton, John Templeton, and N. M. Ball, a cement contractor. (Photo courtesy Marie Ireton)

### Templeton Brothers, Allan Laidlaw and James Eldridge Built Many of First Houses

married; John had no children. Hugh's wife was Ada Smith, a sister of Charles Smith, who married Emma Nelson of Camp Nelson. Marie Ireton is the child of the Hugh Templetons.

The Templetons were in San Francisco before coming to Porterville. As carpenters, they began working for whoever happened to be building houses. The first house they worked on was the Will Putnam home (later owned by the Traegers and recently torn down.) To the work to be found they would ride on their bicycles, even as far as Strathmore or to Chico Flat. The amount they were receiving was so small that they decided to go into contracting for themselves.

By 1897 they built a shop, with planing machinery, standing until recently on the southwest corner of Putnam and Third. In their as-

sociation together John was the business executive, and Hugh attended to the finer cabinet work. In his last years Hugh went to the shop every day until the week before his death; having such vigor, his daughter was struck with surprise when someone once spoke of him as the elderly man in the shop.

Associated with the Templetons at different times were Al Laidlaw and Jack Huber. The Templetons built the Elks Club building, and remodeled the Knupp house including the stone work around. Some of their other buildings were the Walter Premo house on Murry hill (now the Rafferty's), the Flanders' house on D street next to the tracks. In that row they built a house for the Hugh Templetons just north of Cleveland St., which burned, then the present home on the corner of Grand and Kamar. When the Templetons first came

to Porterville they rented a house for \$7.00 a month; it had a pump on the back porch; and they had no water bill nor electric bill to pay. Their neighbors were the Henry Ford and Joe Fontaine families.

#### CHARLIE SMITH

A carpenter that was of later years connected with the Templeton shop, was Charlie Smith, who lived there, a small man somewhat crippled with rheumatism, and generally liked. He had been married; his daughter, Minnie, had died at the age of 20. He and his brother George had come from Minnesota in 1892 with their father, John Smith, who was in failing health. Their mother was Phoebe Ann Van Emon, a niece of John Miller, the pioneer sheep man and rancher of the Strathmore district; so it was to his ranch that they first came. The father had been a carpenter. From the middle 90's Charlie Smith worked on many houses in Porterville. Born in 1872, he died in 1949. George Smith (1876-1947)

did not do carpentering until in this century; earlier he farmed, then some contracting. He married Anna Nause; and they had three children: Patricia Martin, Eleanor MacDonald; and George Richard Smith. Some of their work as contractors was the Jones warehouse ad the Geo. Day Ferguson house.

#### ALLAN LAIDLAW

Allan Laidlaw (born in 1868), whose wife was Minie McCallion from Ireland, came to Porterville about 1893 from West Orange, New Jersey; he was a nephew of Andrew Leslie. He had been well trained as a carpenter, had studied both that and contracting at school and had served an apprenticeship in New York city. His health was not good; and while working on a large building he got tuberculosis and so came to California in 1891. His lung healed, but he died of a heart attack when he was 52 years old.

The first building in Porterville that Allan Laidlaw worked on was the Will Putnam house; others were also working on it. After that he did work for Will Putnam and for J. H. Williams, on the Odd Fellows building and the Masonic Temple, and erected some older homes: the Ross Gardner, the White, the Sprott, and the Harry Davis homes.

The last work he did was the Will Sibley building, owned now by Treanor Tractor Co. He did interior, cabinet work on the Dan

Abbott house. The Daley twins worked for Laidlaw; one was a shingler. In his contracting Fred Stone often did the plumbing. He was at one time associated with the Templetons in their shop. Then he and George Murthy built for themselves a shop and planing mill on E Street, west of the railroad tracks and south of Putnam on property later belonging to the Spalding Lumber Co.

H. Traeger, A. Laidlaw, and M. Compton owned three strips of land, of five acres, 2 1/2 acres, and five acres, respectively, running north from Putnam, "way out in the country" in those days. On his, Laidlaw put up his home at 911 East Putnam, in 1900. Thinking that the mountain air would improve his health, Allan Laidlaw bought, about 1903, the Mountain Home Summer Resort from LeRoy Redfield and his wife Jennie. There are pictures of the hotel among the trees and of the croquet ground.

Mr. Laidlaw was proud that he trained in carpentry William Beckwith, who had a planing mill of his own in Visalia at the time of his death. Jesse Frame said that Laidlaw and Murphy drew the plans for his home on E Street, for \$25.00; and that it was built in 1908-9 at a \$4,800 contract price by C. V. Story. Mr. Story was the contractor who built the Mentz building in 1911. He had no fam-

(Continued On Next Page)

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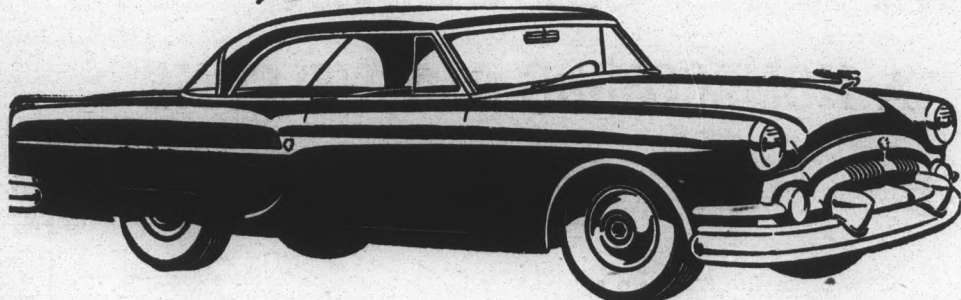
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Porterville

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## Daley Twins, Walter Conner and H. D. Huber Also Early Builders

(Continued From Previous Page)

**JAMES EMERY ELDRIDGE**  
James Emery Eldridge was born in Know county, Illinois in 1863; he came to Long Beach, California in 1900. There he bought a five-acre place on Cherry between Third and Anaheim streets, with a nice house, barn, etc. and 60 Naval orange trees, with the ripe crop on the trees, for \$1,000.00 cash. He came to Tulare county in 1902. The home he built about two miles from Mooney grove is still in good condition. In 1905 he came to Porterville; and the family lived in the old Sturm house on Sunnyside.

He worked for the Templeton Bros. as finisher and cabinet maker in their shop and planing mill. Also he worked for Mr. Tyrell. He helped build several buildings here and at Bakersfield, where he worked on the El Tejon Hotel and the Haberfeldt buildings. During his life in the west he built seven homes for his family, for he liked to travel and owned many houses — usually buying raw land or vacant lots for them. He worked as a carpenter until he was 77, then had his own shop and lathe and turned out many beautiful articles which he never would sell but gave to his friends. He lived to be 86 years old.

The Eldredges' children were: Katherine Howell, Lulu Houghton Thompson, Leslie Eldridge, Marie Kagley Rinear, Wilbert Eldridge, Minnie Zorner, Maurice Eldridge, and Lucille Gallaher. His grandson, Willard Howell, a present day cabinet maker and contractor, is following in his grandfather's skilled finger prints.

### THE DALEY TWINS

James W. Daley and his wife, who was Mary Ann Curry, brought most of their family of nine grown-up children from Iowa to Exeter, California in 1888 and to Porterville in 1895. The following seven are in a family picture: Archie Daley, Wallace Daley, Jennie Millick, Lottie Hicks, Eddie and Edwin — the twin Daleys, and Emma Sprung. The tourist railroad train in which they came to California was still the kind in which you had to bring your own bedding as well as your food. While at Exeter they saw the first Southern Pacific train on the east side line, coming on its way to Porterville.

At Porterville they lived on C Street about where the Sockol place is now. The father had reached the age of 93 at the time of his death in 1923 — his first vote had been the Whig ticket. Both of the twins and also Archie were carpenters. Eddie died in 1928; Edwin Daley is now 82 years old. He had usually done interior finishing; his first work was with George Murphy on the J. H. Williams house. He worked on the Charles Boydston and Henderson houses with Allan Laidlaw, who built two houses just alike (unusual for that time): the Marion Crabtree house out beyond Alta Vista and the Meredith house in town. He worked in both the Templeton and the Laidlaw shops and on the I. O. O. F. and Masonic buildings.

Asked what other carpenters he had known in that period at the turn of the century, he brought the following list: Walt Anderson; Bert Rinehart, lived on W. Putnam; Lige Hunsaker; Gus Eckman, stepfather of the jeweler; Ed Daley; George Affleck, worked for Hartson, lived on Sunnyside; Henry Etter; Henry and Frank and Elmer James, had a bicycle shop where the city hall now stands, and before the skating rink; Church, who turned to making mirrors; Ross Withero; Al Penning, helped in the Bartlett school work shop; Ed and Jess Mozingo; Jack Byers, father of Arlie and Darrell; Fred Labrage, also in clothing store; Harry Shaner; Mr. Munger, a minister, father of Spec Munger, also worked on the Masonic building; Mr. Joerg, lived on Putnam; John Benton, also had a camp ground; Fred Thompson, built the Skinkle home on Deer Creek; Jack White; Percy Woods, lived on Olive; Tom Bump, lived on South E; Ambrose Stottard; Wayne Baker, father of Will Baker; Jim Boone; Joe Williams, lived at Zante; Ferd McNutt.

In 1911 the R. Hodgson & Sons, Earl, Arthur, and Virgil, started in Porterville what has developed into a large contracting and supply business and now into hardware and furniture.

### WALTER CONNER AND H. O. HUBER

The Conner family came in 1896 to Porterville from Tulare where they had lived 10 or so years.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Conner were Walter and his

three sisters: Florence Ferguson, Ruby Loyd and Merrill Dennis. When Walter finished school he began carpenter work for the Templetons and for Laidlaw. When H. O. Huber (called Jack Huber) came (about 1906) as a contractor, Walter began working for him, and they were associated together until Huber's death in 1926. Mr. Huber's first work in Porterville was the Harry Hathaway house.

Conner and Huber built the Loyd chapel or funeral parlors for Carl Loyd, Walter's brother-in-law. Walter Conner built other houses and in later years did special work for Emory Kincaid and other contractors. For Mr. Murphy he had done lapping and shingling; and he made window casings on Main Street. He has now retired and lives in Strathmore. His two children are Max and Rex Conner.

In 1910 Conner, Huber, and George Simpson organized the Mission Building Company, with their shop and planing mill on the northeast corner of Mill and D streets. At that time the Brey (or old Porterville Lumber) yard was across D Street on the later site of the Porterville Poultry Producers Association. (In 1908 the W. R. Spalding Co. put a selling yard called the Citrus City Lumber Co. west of the railroad tracks on E Street south of Putnam. Huber and Conner bought the shop Laidlaw had built west of the tracks on E Street, and this was then known as the Mission Planing Mill until it was destroyed by fire about 1939; but long before this it had been bought by the Spalding Co. and their yard extended around it.)

### OTHER EARLY LUMBER YARDS AND DEALERS

Porter Putnam early had a yard for selling lumber near Division Street. J. H. Williams and Gerald Burns owned and operated for only a short time The Porterville Planing Mill located on the north side of Morton Street near the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks (a part of the building is still standing.) In 1889 the San Joaquin Lumbering Co. put one of its chain of yards in Porterville and sent Hiram F. Brey to manage it; this was on the location mentioned above, (south off Putnam and on the west side of D Street.) This yard passed



JOHN AND Hugh Templeton.

(Photo courtesy Marie Ireton)

through several hands as follows: about 1895 a Puget Sound Company, then to a company organized by Mr. Brey, known as Porterville Lumber Co.; it sold about 1905 to the Central California Redwood Co., at that time operating the Dillon Mill. This company ceased operations; and Mr. Brey reorganized the Porterville Lumber Co. In 1918 they sold to W. R. Spalding, who had, about 1911, changed the name Citrus City Lumber to the Spalding name, for the yards on E Street; at this

time Jas. Venn left Brey and became the manager for the Spalding Lumber Co. at Porterville. Then Hiram Brey and Frank Wright, (a relative) organized their own company and bought out the Home Lumber Company, a partnership of Alma Dillon and H. E. McQuinn, whose yard was on the southwest corner of Olive and Hockett streets, where the Brey-Wright Lumber Co. has been located ever since, and managed chiefly by Alberta Brey since the death of both of the original owners.

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Alan and Norma Margo

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PHONE 1863

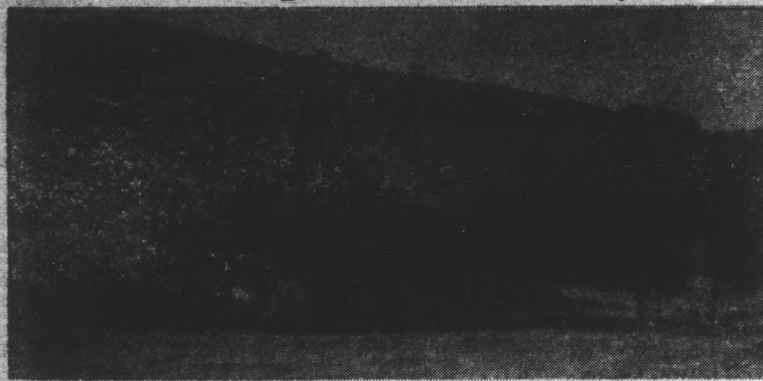


# The FARM TRIBUNE

SECTION C

THE FARM TRIBUNE PROGRESS EDITION Thursday, November 5, 1953

## Witt Family Members Were Pioneer Artisans, But Were Also Represented In The Professional Fields



By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 —

The word artisans for those working at trades is a good word to denote workers doing careful work, often by hand or tools rather than by machinery. This term seems to fit several members of the Witt family. However, two of the earlier generation, first comers to Tulare county, were proud of the still earlier achievements in the professions of this Huguenot family, back in Virginia and Tennessee. One expressed disapproval of the later trend toward handicrafts; he was Napoleon Bonaparte Witt, who came to California in 1852 and, with his brother, Thomas Jefferson Witt, studied law at Stockton in the '70's.

He taught school in Tulare county and at one time was postmaster at Tulare. Thos. Jefferson Witt did newspaper work at Tulare and had a law office in Porterville in 1889. He had earlier been deputy district attorney at Visalia and was in 1879 the district attorney of Tuolumne county. These two men, who passed their last years in Porterville, had no families. They were the sons of John Witt, who was born in Tennessee in 1796 and came to Arkansas to join one of the wagon trains crossing the plains in 1859; he located at Stockton where he died in 1871.

Of his nine children, the one who established the Porterville Witt family (also of nine children), was Henry Shelton Witt (1836-1897) who came to Tulare county in 1869 as a stockman and rancher and to the Tule River area in 1870. He located in Pleasant Valley in 1871 or '72, and later planted one of the first orange groves in the Success district. This orange grove has remained in the family and is now operated by the youngest son, Wallace Witt, joint owner with his sister, Mrs. John Nunes.

While Henry Shelton Witt was interested in raising livestock he and his brothers, Bonaparte and Thomas Jefferson Witt and a few others, took up land near California Hot Springs. Henry Shelton Witt's land title (1883) included the springs, which he sold in 1893 to Thomas Jefferson Witt.

His wife, whom he married in Sacramento in 1864, was Anna Murray. She was crippled by scarlet fever when seven years old and had to go about on one or two crutches; but she had taught school in Sacramento city, and at the home in Tulare county worked outdoors as well as in the house, besides bearing eleven and bringing up nine children. Her last years were passed at the home of Mrs.

ORIGINAL SOUTH Tule school that was built by Henry Sheldon Witt and neighbors; at left Henry Shelton Witt and his wife, Anna. (Photos courtesy Mrs. Ida Witt and Mrs. Myrtle Nunes.)

Nunes on South Hockett street.

Before that, her son, Charles, who was then in charge of the orange grove and ranch and was also a good carpenter, took down (about 1900) the two-storied house on the ranch that had grown to fit the growing family and built for her sake the rambling one-story structure seen at the back in the family picture; in spite of her handicap she never hesitated to go upstairs.

This family picture was taken in 1932 at a family reunion suggested by John; the six brothers and three sisters stood for their picture in the order of their age; beginning at the left, they are: Margaret Anna Rose Smithling (1865-1942), Harry (or Henry Crawford) Witt (1867-1939), Charles Arthur Witt (1869-1936), John Milton Witt (1873-1952), Frank Emmett Witt (born in 1875), Blanche Pearl May Thompson (1878-1949), Virgil Clifford Witt (born in 1881), Wallace Earl Witt (born in 1884), Minnie Myrtle Nunes (born in 1886). Six of them were born on the ranch in the Success district. Their house there back in the '70's had consisted of a large living room facing

north with a fireplace at the east end, a bedroom at each end, and a kitchen annex on the south; this house was southwest of the present tile-brick two story home of Wallace Witt.

Henry Sheldon Witt had been

interested not only in providing his own family with a suitable home to follow the original one; he also helped build the South Tule schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was built under hardships without much money to spend for it. So the men of the neighborhood went up to Hart's mill and "worked out the lumber", thus paying for it by labor. The lumber could not be unloaded quite at the place chosen for the schoolhouse site and had to be "sledged" across the river bed. The building was not finished in time for school to begin; so the teacher, Mrs. Witt's sister, Blanche Murray, a teacher from Sacramento, held school under an oak tree.

The methodical manner of this

father of the family is shown in this summary in Henry Sheldon Witt's diary of the wagon trip to California: "Left Arkansas April 24, 1859, 52 prairie schooners, ox teams, 150 people, 2,200 cattle, 16 saddle horses for drivers. Lewis was captain of the train. Landed in Hangtown November 25, 1859. Traveled last three days in deep snow, going only five miles in three days, seven months, 21 days on road. Had only 250 cattle left — died from thirst crossing plains. The party split at Oregon Trail and a number went on to Oregon. On road 216 days, distance of 2,227 miles, average of 10 miles or more per day." (Hang-

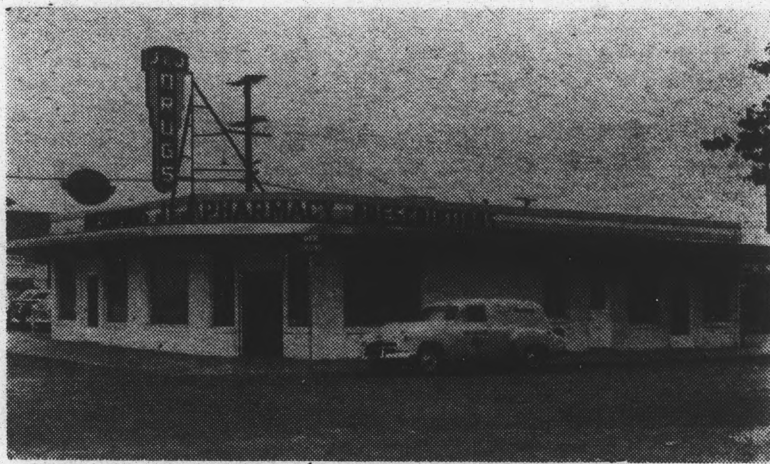
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## J & J Prescription Pharmacy

317 Cleveland at 2nd St.

Phone 1680

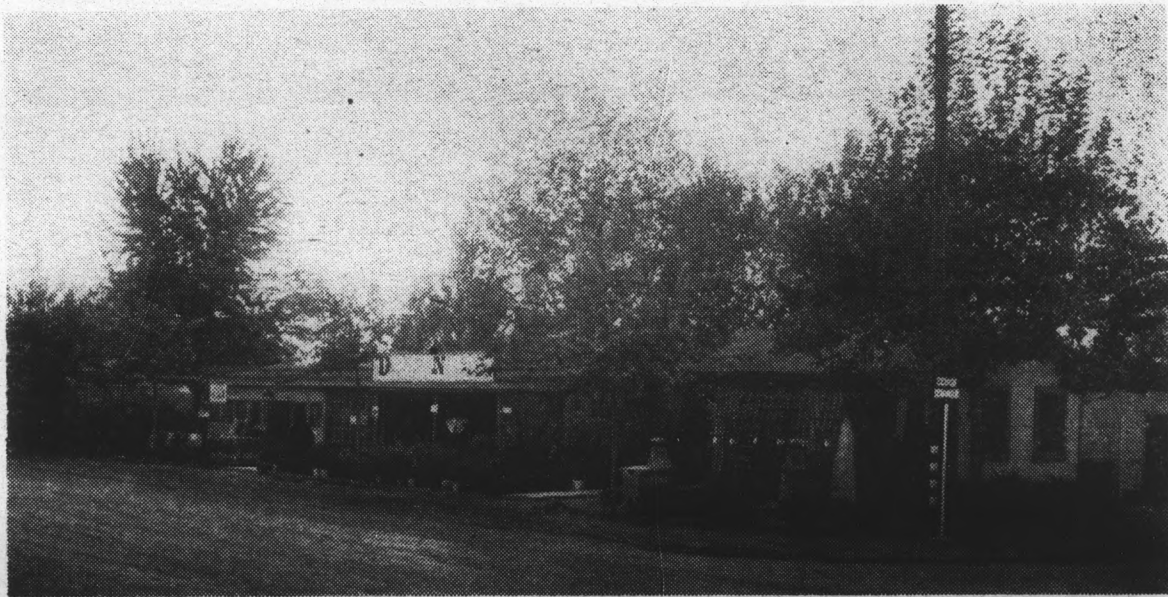
Porterville, California



**WISHES TO WELCOME ALL  
VETERANS, OLDTIMERS AND NEWCOMERS  
TO PORTERVILLE HOMECOMING CELEBRATION  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th**

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PLANTS — SHRUBS — TREES**

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133 N. E Street

Just North of Olive  
Porterville

Telephone 593



# THE WITT FAMILY HISTORY

(Continued From Previous Page) town is present Placerville.)

Although basically all six Witt brothers were skilled with their hands ("knowing which end of the hammer to lay hold of and how to draw a saw"), they have been in many occupations and affairs in the community — as also have

their children. Harry, then Charles and Wallace have had charge of the Witt orange grove and were also livestock raisers and ranchers. John was consistently a sheet-metal worker and plumber from 1899 on, owning his own shop most of the time. When the Witt shop was sold last year after John's death,

Serving Porterville Since 1931

**WELCOME**  
**Pioneers and Veterans**

To Porterville's Armistice and Homecoming Celebration

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th**

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COMPLETE REPAIR SERVICE  
ALL MAKES — ALL MODELS

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**HAULMAN'S GARAGE**

519 Second St.

Porterville

Phone 36



WITT FAMILY picture taken in more recent years in front of the Charles Witt home on the Witt orange grove in Success valley

Left to right, are: Margaret Anna Witt Smitherling, Harry C. Witt, Charles A. Witt, John M. Witt, Frank E. Witt, Blanche Pearl Witt

May-Thompson, Virgil Clifford Witt, Wallace Earl Witt and Minnie M. Nunes Witt. (Photo courtesy Donald Witt.)

by his son, Roy, who had worked with his father for years, it was one of the oldest business places in Porterville continually under one name.

Charles and Frank Witt worked with John in the shop at different times. Harry, besides farming and orange-growing, had a wood and feed business about 1912 at the

Jim Bayes feed lot on the corner of Hockett and Olive streets, and from 1921 to 1924 had a restaurant in Porterville.

Charles was with his cousin, Ralph Graves in undertaker's parlors in Modesto before the Spanish-American war, in which he served. He was for two years night watchman for the town of

Porterville and two years city marshal following the adoption of prohibition. He was on the Porterville city council and had completed a term at the time of his death. His only child, Milton, a talented lad still in college, was killed in an automobile accident in 1926.

Frank, though mainly a rancher, has been interested in mining ventures; for a while he was control man on the Camp Nelson road. Wallace was for a while in the dairy business at Woodville and raising hogs; he also worked at carpentry, but finally returned to orange growing.

Clifford worked on stock ranches off and on and teamed for the Doty Brothers when they were hauling lumber from the Enterprise Mill, and worked for Wishon as lineman on the Mt. Whitney power and electric lines. For several summers he had pack outfits out of Camp Nelson; he worked for Jonathan May in the May blacksmith shop at Springville, and then after taking care of an orange grove he opened his own blacksmith business at Success in 1916 and in 1918 bought the shop of Charles Hockett at Ducor. There he has been specializing for several years in making branding irons for cattlemen; these have been ordered from as far away as Montana, Idaho, and New Mexico.

Of the third generation, Clifford's son, Donald Witt, is an auto mechanic at Ducor; but his hobby at his home on Scenic Heights hill is centered in the museum that he has built there for the Indian artifacts he has been collecting. He has put into his showcases and classifying both handicraft and methodical thinking.

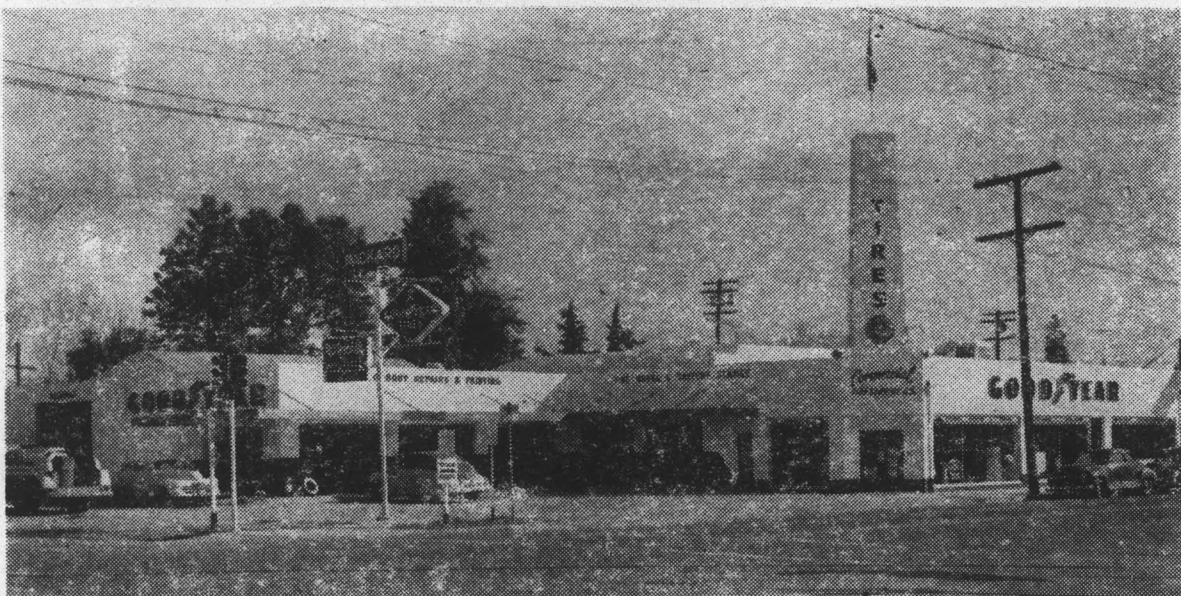
Harry's son, Jack Witt, with his brother-in-law, Floyd Briggs, developed the Valley Body and Fender works on Morton and Second streets, and then with his wife opened the Pet and Hobby shop on South Main. There their younger son, Lloyd Witt has used his craft's skill in expanding production of leather goods in cowboy outfits for children.

Frank's sons, Ray Witt, now deceased, was in radar on the Islands; and Chet Witt is an electrician in Edmonds, Washington. Wallace's son, Walter Witt, spent some time as a carpenter but is now raising livestock. John's son, Ray Witt, as said before, was the second member of the Witt Plumbing Co.

Margaret A. Witt's son, Clarence Rose, was in the postoffice at Phoenix, Ariz.; and Blanche Pearl Witt's son, also deceased, Ollie May, was a farmer. Minnie Witt Nunes has three sons: John Nunes was connected with the Juvenile court in Alameda county and now is in the office of the public defender in Oakland. Gordon and

(Continued On Next Page)

**Serving This Community For The Past  
17 Years With GOODYEAR PRODUCTS**



1953

We Extend A Hearty Welcome To All  
**OLDTIMERS NEWCOMERS IN-BETWEENERS**  
**AT THE**  
**Veterans' Homecoming Celebration**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11**

*Commercial*  
**TIRE SERVICE CO.**

Main and Orange Sts.

Porterville

HOME OWNED AND OPERATED BY JESSE F. ECKLES





EARLY-DAY residents were Napoleon Bonaparte Witt and Thomas Jefferson Witt. (Photo courtesy Donald Witt)

Celebrate November 11 In Porterville

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In Porterville

Welcomes  
All Friends and Pioneers  
On  
Homecoming Day

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232 N. Main St.

Phone 79

## THE WITT FAMILY HISTORY

(Continued From Previous Page)

Walden Nunes are artisans in a more specialized way — Gordon, having been a cartoonist for Walt Disney and for the Warner Bros. studio, is now associate professor in arts in the University of California at Los Angeles. Walden Nunes is an architect's draftsman in Fresno and San Francisco.

One of the girls of the third generation is a teacher — Shirley Witt Phillips teaches school at Pacific Grove; she is Wallace's daughter. Veda May Martin, Blanche Witt May's daughter, is a nurse in Porterville. Louis Smith-

ling Johnson, Margaret Witt's daughter, was for 10 or so years in the Pasadena Water office.

Other girls of the third generation have followed their mother's occupation as housewives: Ethel Rose Hughey, Margaret's daughter, lives in Pasadena; Merle Witt Schoelerman Cople, John's daughter, lives in Porterville; John's other daughter, Virgie Wagner, died several years ago; Audrey Witt Halloway, Clifford's daughter, also lives in Porterville. This large Witt family has thus contributed to the work of artisans in the growth of Porterville.

## Car Owners Don't Like License Charge

PORTERVILLE, Jan. 8, 1913 — Auto owners in this city who have received their new machine numbers, under terms of the new vehicle license law which went into effect January 1, are peeved because state authorities are sending these numbers out by express instead of through parcel post.

The express charges amount to 45 cents, which is double what it costs to send the numbers by mail. The new law is exceedingly unpopular and there is a universal demand here that the action to test the law's validity be carried through without compromise.

# Pillsbury Mills

INC.

Founded 83 Years  
Ago In 1869



Glen Johnson, Porterville FFA, Reserve Champion Fat Lamb, 1953 Tulare County Fair — (A Pillsbury-Fed Champion)

Pillsbury has a total of 66 years of feed experience — even as early as 1886 controlled feeding experiments were started.

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Below are listed a few of the many Pillsbury FIRSTS in feeds:

1. FIRST in CONTROLLED DAIRY FEEDING EXPERIMENTS.
2. FIRST in the USE of "MYCINS" in MANY DIFFERENT FEEDS.
3. FIRST in BITE-SIZE GRANULATION of POULTRY FEEDS.
4. FIRST with BITE-SIZE PIG FEAST — the NEW PIG STARTER.
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Through constant research plus feeding experiments and many years of experience in procurement of feed ingredients and in manufacturing, Pillsbury is able to give you the finest in Poultry, Turkey, Rabbit, Livestock and Dairy feeds.

**WELCOME ALL TO PORTERVILLE ON  
HOMECOMING DAY**

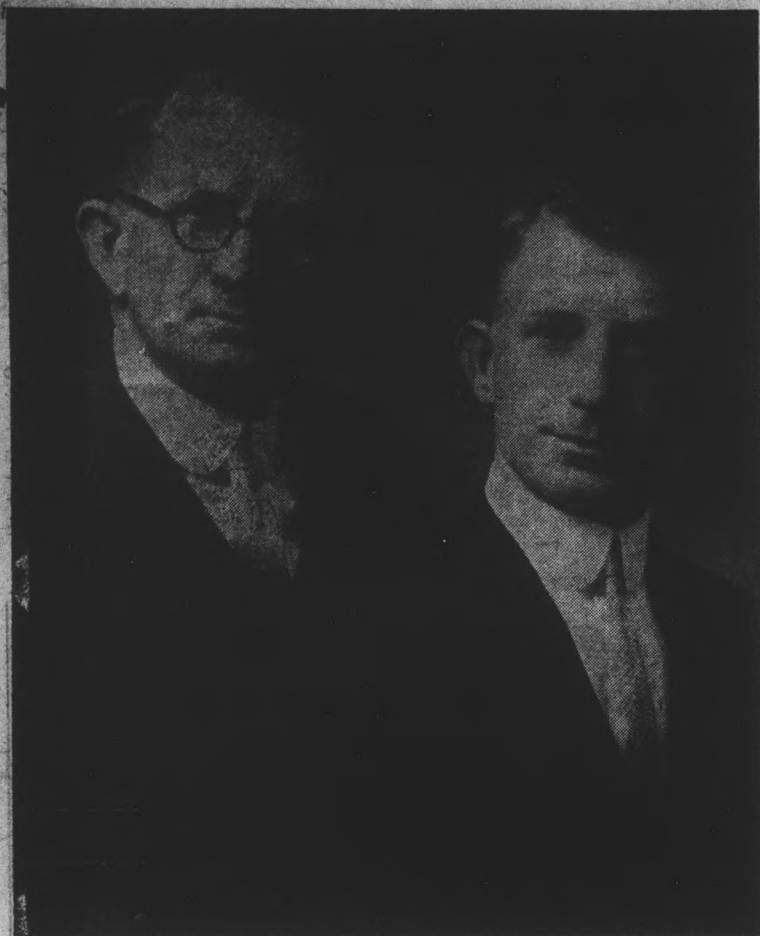
# Orange Street Feed Store

Your Exclusive "Pillsbury" Dealer

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Porterville







JOHN WITT and his son, Roy Witt (Photo courtesy Mrs. Ida Witt)

## Mrs. Mary A. Graham Recalls Growth Of Porterville Since 1920 As Reflected By Increased Work In Office Of Collector

By Ina H. Stiner  
From Interviews

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — For nearly 30 years all the householders of Porterville came monthly to Mrs. Mary A. Graham to pay their water dues. At first it was on Putnam, in the Thomas building west of Division street; then it was on the north side of Putnam east of the alley in the first block east of Main; and finally, after 1939 to the present city hall. These monthly visits became an automatic procedure; but most of us cannot forget the courtesy of the lady behind the counter. It was not merely the courtesy of one thus meeting the public in the round of duties.

For example, if a water meter reading seemed to be unusual the man who had done that work was asked to reread that meter. (The writer remembers twice, while away on a summer vacation, receiving a courteous note from Mrs. Graham, accompanying an astounding bill, regretting the matter which was nevertheless the correct reading. Doubtless other residents have

similarly had thoughtful warnings that all was not going well.)

The Grahams came to Porterville in 1908; and at that time Mrs. Graham was busy raising her family. Mr. Graham had a barber shop. They lived first temporarily on B Street, and then bought from Louis Stone a house that had been built in 1900 at 820 East Mill street. It was already piped for water and had an enameled bath tub and a septic tank in the yard. The children growing up there were: Herschel Graham, who now manages Woolworth's store in San Jose; Paul Graham, now an outside salesman for the Schwabacher-Frey Co. in San Francisco; Adaire Graham, who lives in Monrovia, and is a salesman for the Welch Mechanics Laundry in Los Angeles; and Doris Graham, who married Don Killian and lives in Puerto Rico.

After Mr. Graham's death Mrs. Graham, in 1920, got the position of Collector of City Water Revenue — an appointment by the board of city councilmen, at that time Ed. Halbert, A. J. Newberry,

D. Oglesby, C. Kessing and W. S. Case. She had the most contact with the first two and remembers them with pleasure. When in 1927 a council and city manager form of government was adopted under a new charter, Mrs. Graham was re-appointed by the first city manager, Fred Pease. She served under the following city managers: D. P. Kinney, F. M. Pfrimmer, Elmer Long, Harold Coulthurst, and Harold Corbin.

The Superintendent of Public Works who had charge of the water system, and the streets, in 1920 was Ed Curd. (A Mr. Keahler had preceded him, and he was followed by Cyrus R. Gurdy, whose long term of service was broken in two by a short term of Delphin Spellman; and now David Rambo has the position.) These superintendents were the men who managed the laying of water and sewer mains as these systems were extended to take care of new homes, and employed laborers to do the work. The increased use of water led also to the sinking of more wells.

The city had already put down the well on Third and Harrison streets, besides inheriting the one on Fourth near Putnam with the tall water tower. Then these were added: On E near Willow, and in the 1930's on West Orange near E, and about 1943 on the northeast corner of J and Oak streets. Now there are three more: at Palm and Kanai, on the south part of the high school property, and at Walnut and A streets. At the tank on Scenic Hill there is a booster pump. As the use of water had increased with the growth in population, the water meters have helped to hold the use to moderation.

Before meters were put in and there was a flat rate, sometimes residents had to be asked not to use so much water during the day and to be sure to turn off running water if the fire bell rang, so that the firemen could have good pressure. The flat rate was measured by the size of the yard irrigated. (It was taken for granted that the amount used in all houses was about equal.) \$1.30 was the rate for the average size of yard. The rate when meters were installed was for many years \$1.00 for the first 1000 cubic feet; for the second 1000, 90 cts.; and for the third, 75 cts. But there was a chart of rates from which Mrs. Graham could get the totals for the meter readings brought in.

Mrs. Graham's first title was Collector of Water Revenue, and that defined her duties. At that time city taxes were collected by the City Marshal — Ed Isham, and later, Austin Reynolds, and so on. Then (probably at the change in the form of city government in 1927) Mrs. Graham became the Collector of City Revenues which included being the City Tax Collector.

Also licenses of various kinds, inspection and building fees, assessments for street paving and street lights (of which the neighboring owners paid a part), and more recently bills for garbage disposal, etc., were paid in her office. She says that the assessments, especially those on bonds, sometimes amounted to so much on otherwise small tax bills that she was ashamed to send them out. The interest becomes so high on 15 or 20 year bonds that she feels that bonds should be avoided, and approves of the sewer rentals charge recently imposed to finance the sewer system extension.

At first Mrs. Graham had no assistant; and at that time Mr. Curd helped her on problems, as did also Mr. Pease when he became city manager. At the end there were five assistants in the office. The personnel changed, for the girls got married and left. Mrs. Graham found joy in her work, and now has happiness in the memories.

## Serving This Community Since 1904



Leggett's First Store In Porterville At the Right Known as "Leggett's Dry Goods" — Picture of 1904

Since 1904 Leggett's have been serving the men and boys of Porterville with the finest clothing and furnishings.

Many of the boys we fitted "way back when" are grown men buying clothes for their grandsons . . . and buying clothes for themselves.

We're confident that they are still our customers because they know Leggett's offer clothes with the right labels . . . labels that they

know . . . every one the sign of quality at a fair price. They know that Leggett's don't sell "cut quality" at "cut prices." They know that they, as our customers, are our success . . . and they know we will treat them accordingly.

Our future depends not only on gaining new customers, but also on our ability to retain the old patrons. With this in mind, Leggett's will continue to serve with the finest of clothing.

**STORE FOR MEN AND BOYS**

212 N. Main Street  
Porterville

*Leggett's*



## Pioneer Land Company Made Valuable Contributions To Community Although Meeting Early-Day Opposition

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — In the history of the growth of Porterville there are many references to the Pioneer Land Company; so it is well to give that corporation due recognition for its part in its growth. That this recognition has sometimes been reluctant earlier in the century has been due to two causes: First, because the Pioneer Water company became involved in a struggle with the farmers along the Tule who had prior rights in the use of water; and second, because the Pioneer Bank when it was the only bank of Porterville charged high rates of interest — as doubtless did other banks in this newer country before there were limitations imposed by law. Perhaps there was another cause in that the railroad transportation that brought the Pioneer Land Company to Porterville also brought capitalists from the mid-west and east who helped develop the young orange industry — and who made their homes here.

The Pioneer Land Company, incorporated about 1888, consisted mainly of Philip N. Lilienthal, a San Francisco banker, Leon Sloss, and William Thomas, a San Francisco lawyer. A first generation of the Sloss family — Louis and Gersal — had made a fortune in the Alaska fur trade; and the second generation in San Francisco was ready to use the money.

William Thomas was the man who interested the others in investing the money in land at Porterville; and he was the head of the company, representing it when necessary at Porterville. The tract of land bought started just north of Porterville with the land owned by Daniel Murphy, who is said to have come to the Tule river at the time when the Martins of Plano came from Texas in 1860; and he was able to buy up in the bad years of 1862-64 much of the 3,000 acres that Elisha Packwood, cattleman, had acquired in the 1850's north and northwest of the site of Porterville.

The Pioneer Land Company's purchases amounted to approximately 10 sections of land (6,400 acres) and extended over the hills north of Porterville as far as Welcome Road and also out northwest on the plains to the old Hannah ranch. (Jim Hannah, an attorney of Visalia and an uncle of Mrs. Allen Basye, had bought two sections of land.)

The Land Company's idea was

to develop the land for the more intensive cultivation of fruits than its original use as grain land or pasture; they desired to sell it off in small parcels. Close in, house lots were sold.

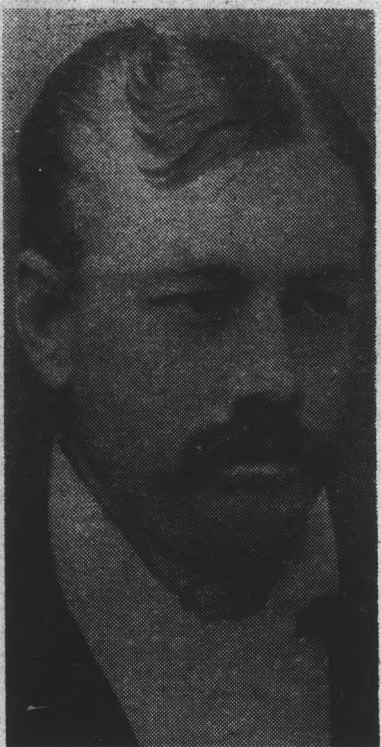
A rather interesting experiment in their land sales was a Jewish colony out in the Westfield district, one of the earliest so-called colonies promoted in this district.

James Owens, early mail carrier, said of them: "Mr. Phil Bier was the agent of the Land Company, and Sir Moses Montefiori was the benevolent patron of the Jews. By 1892 about 20 families had settled there. A Mr. Katz acted as their leader and interpreter. They probably paid the same price for their land as other purchasers in Westfield — an average of \$100 per acre. Like their neighbors they engaged in general farming, with alfalfa, fruit, garden-stuff, and poultry. They were served by the

Pioneer ditch with irrigating water; but one by one they sold out as they had a chance and left." Richard Bradley, manager of the Pioneer Bank from 1895 to 1910, said these Jews were favored and helped financially because Lilienthal and Sloss were Jews and because Thomas encouraged a good feeling; but that the "banking Jews" stopped giving.

An early manager in Porterville for the Pioneer Land Company — perhaps the first — was Emil New-

(Continued On Next Page)



MANAGER OF the Pioneer Land Company in the early days was V. D. Knupp, shown above, with his wife, Ellen Cutler Knupp, as they looked about the time they came to Porterville. They moved into what became known as "the Knupp home" on the corner of Morton and Sunnyside, and for many years this was one of the show places of the community.

(Photos courtesy Jim Knupp)

See You In Porterville  
November 11, 1953

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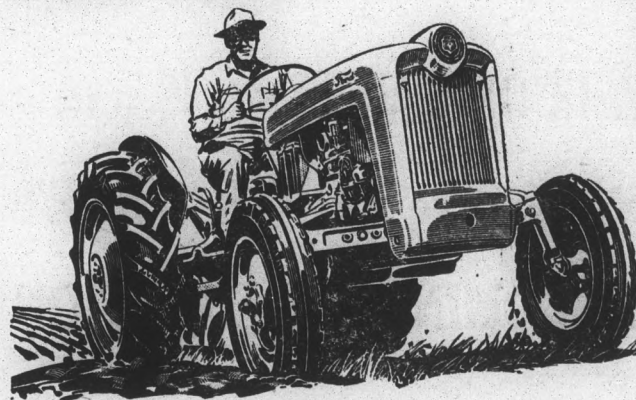
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## Progressing . . . WITH PORTERVILLE SINCE 1944



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Welcome To All Veterans and Oldtimers

Harold Weisenberger — Harley Kimbrough — Howard Beard

Weisenberger's Farm Supply Co.

1231 West Olive St.

Porterville



## SALEM TEACHER

WOODVILLE, Sept. 9, 1897 — Miss Kitty Hunsaker of Woodville has been engaged to teach the Salem school.

## NEW EDITOR

PORTERVILLE, Feb. 8, 1907 — Al C. Joy assumes control today as new editor of the Porterville Enterprise.

## Leaders In Children's FASHIONS



The Best in Clothing, Toys,  
Furnishings, Novelties  
From the Cradle to  
The "Teen-Age"

## WELCOME VETERANS and PIONEERS to PORTERVILLE'S HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

WELCOME TO



"FOR DISTINCTIVE CHILDREN'S WEAR"

405 N. Main St.

Porterville



GRANITE BUILDINGS, constructed in 1899 by the Pioneer Land company at Main and Putnam to house the Pioneer bank; next door

is the J. W. Moomaw jewelry store. The bank building proved to be too heavy for its foundation and was eventually demolished

by J. Fred Kessing for a bid price of \$250. The picture was taken about 1905.

(Photo courtesy Hammonds)

### PIONEER LAND CO. CONTRIBUTIONS

(Continued From Previous Page)

man, a civil engineer, who was one of the group coming from Tomah, Wisconsin. He was succeeded in 1893 by Valentine D. Knupp, of Visalia, who continued in Porterville until his death 30 years later. He had come to Visalia in 1874, then 18 years of age, and married Ellen Cutler, a daughter of Dr. John Cutler, early physician and judge of Visalia. The Knupp children, who attended the schools of Porterville, are Reginald, Guy, Wilko, and Myra, (Mrs. W. N. Walbridge.)

The manager's house was at the northeast corner of Morton and Sunnyside, and can be seen in an old picture as the first at the left of a row of houses on the north side of Morton street, the others having also been built by the Company for rental or use in case their employees needed housing. Beyond the east end of this row of houses the Land Company gave the site where the Morton Street Grammar School was built about 1890. Other houses were built also.

On the ranches which the Pioneer Land company bought as

units, the foremen had homes. Ed Curd, later city street superintendent, and Wesley Miller were two of these foremen.

#### THE PIONEER WATER CO.

As productive land must have irrigation water, the Pioneer Land Company formed a Pioneer Water Company, the manager of which was William Duncan. His home was also on the north side of Morton street, but east, beyond the present Santa Fe R. R. tracks; (it was later remodeled for Jim Richards, without changing the exterior walls, which the contractor said were too well-built to be disturbed.) To secure irrigating water the company bought enough shares to control what was then known as Mill ditch. It had been a very early ditch out of Tule river and was owned by the Tule River Ditch Co. — Hockett, Putnam, Murry, and others; it had been extended — mostly by labor from the old Indian Reservation — to furnish water power for the first flouring mill (in what is now Murry Park), built in 1868 by John Fleck and Henry A. Clark, and soon taken over by T. P. Johnson and Jno. B. Keeney.

The cascade in Murry Park still shows the early ditch which thus became the Pioneer ditch and which flows under cover in most of its passage through present Porterville. In the course of getting most of the shares in this ditch, the Pioneer Land company bought, in 1888, the mill itself from Chas. H. McLean, a millman who used to buy mills to recondition and sell. The mill was then rented to the Manters who sent for Andrew Leslie to run it.

#### PORTERVILLE'S FIRST WATER

#### SYSTEM.

A picture of the mill in the early 90's shows a water tank on the top of the hill back of it, into which water was pumped from the Pioneer ditch. This was the beginning of Porterville's water system of water piped into homes. The Pioneer Water Company soon found that a less fluctuating source was necessary and so sank 500 feet deep the well near the northwest corner of Putnam avenue and Third street, and pumped it with a traction engine, and erected there the present tank 130 feet in height.

A contractor from out of town was employed to do the work, says Wilko Knupp, who watched with interest the erection, and one afternoon after school, had the thrill himself of walking across the upper iron girders. He says that many of the water pipes first laid were wooden. David Rambo, the present City Superintendent of Public Works, says that some of the large cast-iron watermains that were also laid by the Pioneer Water Company are still in use under the streets. This work of pipe-laying was also done by contractors from outside the community.

There came a time, however, when the town water system was a source of annoyance for the company. There were complaints from some citizens although the water was used freely without meter measurement. So after the City of Porterville was incorporated in 1902, William Thomas, head of the Pioneer Land Company was glad of a chance to sell it. However, the vote for bonds to buy it was lost in the first election (1906).

(Continued On Next Page)

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On Homecoming Day

Wednesday, November 11th

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For Wisconsin Engines and Parts



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520 North Main Street

Porterville

Telephone 752



## Pioneer Land Company Installed Porterville's First Electric Lights

(Continued From Previous Page) probably because the price — \$50,000 — looked too high; it passed by 1908.

### PORTERVILLE'S FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHTS

In connection with the flouring mill owned by them, the Pioneer Land Company installed the first electric lighting system for Porterville, to light the streets with carbon arc lights and to light business houses and residences. The mill's water power was used at nights and a generating plant or dynamo south of the mill. There was also a steam plant at the mill for use when the water was low; and this was used for the lights; a man named Cowan ran it. But the arc lights were few; and the plant not dependable.

Therefore, in 1897, Walter Norris and his brother-in-law, A. D. Willson, (of the group from Tomah, Wisconsin) set up an electric light plant on Fourth St. between Mill and Garden, running it by steam. Frank Rounsaville worked for them. They installed incandescent lights in houses and put up their own lines and transformers; and it was these lines, etc., that were taken over by the Mt. Whitney Electric Power and Light Company in 1893 when they bought out the "Porterville Electric Light Company."

Mt. Whitney power came to Porterville from the plant on the Kaweah via the lines extended from Lindsay. In the meantime the Pioneer Land Company had given up the furnishing of electric lights; but it had given Porterville a beginning of both piped water and electric lights in the houses.

One other thing came to the

town of Porterville from the Pioneer Land Company's owning the mill ditch and the mill; and that was a portion of Murry Park. Mr. Bradley said that the people did not at first want to take the gift because they thought the company was going to make something out of the deal. But, he affirmed as a general statement: "The Land company never made a nickel; the bank made a dollar or two."

### STRUGGLE FOR WATER CONTROL

What involved the Pioneer Water Company in unpopularity and some law suits was the problem of irrigation water. As Mr. Bradley has said years later: "There was no water in any ditches part of the time. There was a spoonful of water for stock. You can't depend on ditches today. Pumping had to be used." He thought that "The Pioneer Land Company dealt fairly and got things straightened out to share in the ditches and helped enlarge them. But the water was not there."

In order to secure enough water for their extensive holdings that they had put on the market, the Pioneer Land Company had tried to buy enough shares to obtain control in each ditch out of Tule river. These existing ditches were based on early use and on "riparian" (that is, river-border) rights. The Land company wanted to, in fact had to, take the water over to land some distance from the river — a right nowadays admitted for "appropriators."

Doubtless some of these early water users also had a third kind of legal right — that "adjudicated by the court" — as already there had been law suits about Tule

river ditches. So the Pioneer Land Company was in a legal way buying shares. For example, J. Fred Kesting in some memoranda on record mentioned selling "to the Pioneer Land Company nine acres lying on the south side of the old Plano town-site for \$1,200," adding, "this piece of property (the town site) had eight shares in the Campbell & Moreland Ditch. I sold four shares for \$450."

The Pioneer Land Company's early success in thus obtaining wa-

ter control seems to have led the water company into some extreme and unfortunate statements which increased their unpopularity. Such a statement occurs in the Porterville Enterprise newspaper of August 10, 1889:

"The dispute between the Pioneer Water Company and the Plano people has been settled; water is to run in Plano ditch a certain number of days to each user. But the company does not relinquish its absolute right to the whole

volume of water, and is only doing this (compromise) until suits are settled at court. Of course if they had chosen they could, with perfect impunity, close the water off from Plano altogether."

It is not clear to one who reads the newspaper accounts of stormy meetings between water users in 1889 whether it was the Pioneer Water Company or the group of water users arrayed against them were ahead of their time in the ef-

(Continued On Next Page)

## WELCOME . . . Veterans and Pioneers

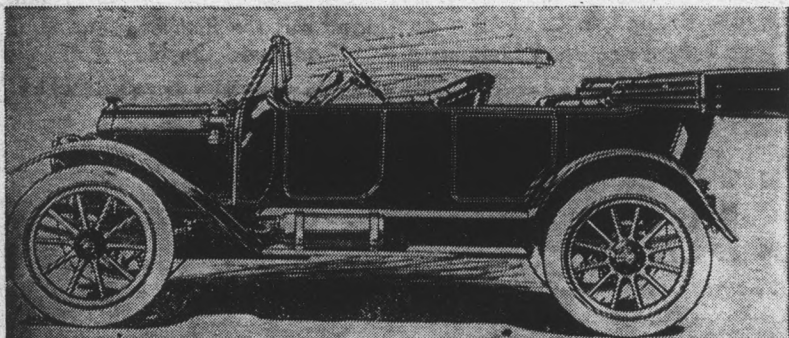


Modern Professional Service With  
Old Fashioned Friendliness  
YOUR PRESCRIPTIONIST SINCE 1909

## Claubes Pharmacy

501 N. MAIN ST.

PORTERVILLE



1914 Maxwell "25-4" \$850 delivered

THE YEAR'S SENSATION. FOUR-CYLINDER, BLOCK-CAST, 30 H.P. ROTARY MAGNETO, WEIGHT, 1900 POUNDS. 104-IN. WHEEL BASE. 30-IN. TIRES ALL ROUND. 5 SPEED. SELECTIVE TRANSMISSION. FULL FIVE-PASSENGER BODY. COMPLETE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TIRE HOLDERS, WINDSHIELD, TOP AND JIFFY CURTAINS.

THE SENSATIONAL Maxwell shown above boasted complete equipment, including four tires, tire holders, windshield, top and jiffy curtains. In addition to a four cylinder, 27 hp. power motor and a magneto. How could you go wrong at \$850.00?

1939

1953

## Jennings Feed and Farm Supply

Now Located At

1820 West Olive

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Welcomes All To Porterville's  
Annual Homecoming Celebration  
November 11th

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Serving Porterville and Community  
For The Past 14 Years

## PROGRESSING WITH PORTERVILLE FOR OVER 40 YEARS . . .

# TROY LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANERS

Banquet and Dinner Linens — Towel Supplies

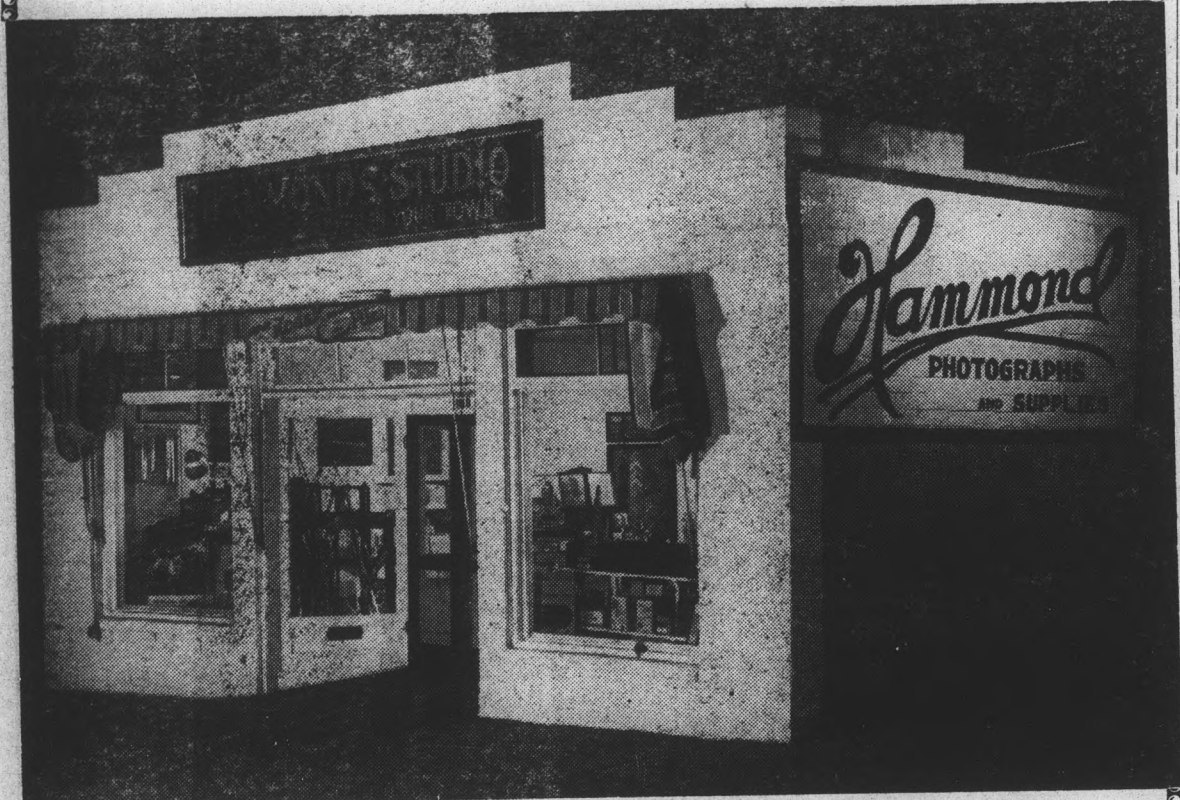
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## We Welcome All On Homecoming Day



Celebrate November 11 In Porterville

# Welcome to all Veterans and Pioneers



IT'S BEEN HAMMOND IN PORTERVILLE SINCE 1914

FOR A COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE

## HAMMOND

1018 Sunnyside

Porterville

Phone 600

### Pioneer Land Company Contributed The Pioneer Hotel and Pioneer Bank

(Continued From Previous Page)  
fort to form a general corporation including all owners in all the ditches out of Tule river, as was proposed by an appointed committee (William Blankenship, G. E. Dean, Senator John Roth, T. J. Mitchell, and J. H. Grimsley). The meetings were quite inclusive and seem to have been held under the sponsorship of "The Tule River Agricultural Association and Riparianists."

One meeting was attended by 75 land owners with a view to consolidate ditches which were named as "South Side, Tule, Callison, Slough, Pioneer, Pleasant Valley, Mentz, Ab Owen, and several others." The meeting in which the

proposal reported by the committee was discussed was attended by Emil Newman who spoke as representative of the "Pioneer and Porter Slough Ditch Company."

At the next meeting where certain phases of the plan with regard to districts were discussed they were rejected by the Pioneer Land Company. At any rate, no inclusive corporation was formed; and the struggle between various claimants of water rights went on. That the Pioneer Land Company seemed later to have lived more peaceably with the citizens may have been due to V. D. Knupp's management begun in 1893.

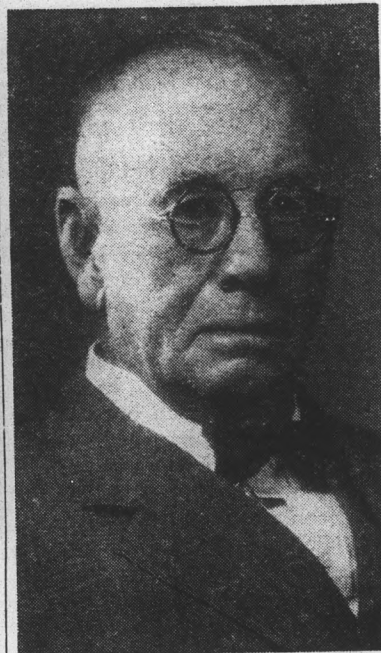
#### PIONEER HOTEL

To the building of Porterville the Pioneer Land Company contributed the Pioneer Hotel, at the northwest corner of Main and Putnam. Mr. Bradley said that some public subscription were contributed, e.g. from P. P. Davis, Robert Baker, "and others." At any rate it was managed by the Pioneer Land Company as an asset — and sometimes a liability. J. Fred Kessing, contractor, made the bricks for it in his brick kiln at Plano.

When it was being a liability, V. D. Knupp sought out Jas. F. Canty, a livery stable man in Visalia, and persuaded him to buy it in 1900. The Cantys ran it successfully for 20 years; and it remained in their ownership until it was sold to a Hollywood man after Mrs. Canty's death in the late 1940s. There was a Pioneer Livery Stable, a necessary adjunct of a hotel in early days, at the north of it, managed by Mr. Talbot (father of Will Talbot).

#### PIONEER BANK

The outer corner of the Pioneer Hotel was the first location of the  
(Continued On Next Page)



V. D. KNUPP, an early-day manager of the Pioneer Land Company in Porterville and active business man of the community. The above photo was taken in the later years of Mr. Knupp's life.

(Photo courtesy Hammond)

## KEEPING PACE

*with Progressive Porterville  
and the San Joaquin Valley*

*... Since 1938*



COMPLETE STOCK OF AUTOMOTIVE PARTS, TOOLS  
AND GARAGE SUPPLIES



MOST COMPLETE MACHINE SHOP SERVICE IN THE  
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

## Green Motor Parts

6 Stores to Serve You

PORTERVILLE — LINDSAY — TULARE — HANFORD — EXETER — CORCORAN





TROUBLE WAS not uncommon with early-day automobiles; in the above photo Jay G. Brown, Bud Wiley and Darwin Ting were fixing a tire on a two-cylinder Buick, some place between Porterville and Tulare about 1908. Mr. Brown is now semi-retired and living in Porterville; Mr. Wiley is a resident of Terra Bella and engaged in farming; Mr. Ting is a druggist at Escondido. (Photo courtesy Jay Brown.)

### Pioneer Land Company Contributed The Pioneer Hotel and Pioneer Bank

(Continued From Previous Page)

Pioneer Bank, which was incorporated in 1888 or '89, by Wm. Thomas and P. N. Lilienthal and L. Sloss of the Pioneer Land Co. and (so Elizabeth Osborne, who wrote about it for Local History in 1934, adds) "Max Geralte and M. Gunst, also of the Anglo-American Bank of San Francisco." Emil Newman was the first manager of the bank, followed by Richard Bradley who was sent from San Francisco in 1895 by Lilienthal. He served until 1910 (and later put up the brick building near Harrison on the east side of Main, long used by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.) Mr. Bradley also served as secretary of the Pioneer Hotel company.

Shortly after 1899 a building for the bank was put up at the southeast corner of Main and Putnam of blocks of native granite. Though there was a foundation to the building the total weight of the granite caused the inner side of the building to sink to the injury of the adjoining building of J. W. Moomaw, jeweler. So the bank company had the building torn down by J. Fred Kessing, whose very low bid was \$250. There were 680 tons of stone, some of which was used later in the Abbott building.

Mr. Kessing said that Mr. Bradley gave him the windows which had pointed arches; and he used them in building his carpenter shop at the northwest corner of Plano and Worth roads. They gave the shop the appearance of an old church or school; and this was the building used several years ago by Walt Disney Co. in filming of the

movie "So Dear To My Heart" on the Tule river bottom that was once a part of the old Indian Reservation. The present two-storied building was erected on the site about 1910.

In 1903 a competitive bank, the First National Bank of Porterville, was started; and for a manager, Thomas Price, one of the stockholders, sent to North Dakota for Harry C. Carr, who was employed in a bank Mr. Price had been associated with. Mr. Carr induced some trained employees of the Pioneer Bank to come to the new bank. So Richard Bradley wrote in 1907 to the principal of the Visalia High School to send him one of the top students of the graduating class.

Allen Basye was the one recommended; and in the interview Mr. Bradley gave him a sum of many figures to do. Then he made Allen promise not to leave the bank for another job; Allen learned the reason why when he soon received an offer from Mr. Carr. About two years later P. N. Lilienthal, who held the presidency of the Pioneer Bank company, was accidentally killed when a frightened horse reared and plunged into the automobile he was driving on a San Francisco street. After his death his heirs and the rest of the Pioneer Land Company sold the bank to Susman Mitchell of Visalia and Gene Scott, then county clerk and son-in-law of John B. Hockett. Then when Richard Bradley was no longer in 1910 the manager of the Pioneer Bank, Allen Basye accepted H. C. Carr's next offer — at \$100.00 a month — and was in the First National

and its successor for 35 years.

The Pioneer Land Company had laid out First and Second subdivisions and the Scenic Heights tract, as well as selling the Westfield district. But in 1920 or so it still had some land for sale; it was put on the market for one dollar down, and still no sale. So whatever was left was bought by V. D. Knupp, Fred Velie, and Jesse Frame.

The Pioneer Land Company had

made its contributions to the growth of Porterville by the sale of much land for homes in and beyond the present Porterville city limits, and started the city water system and begun electric light production, had operated a flouring mill, a hotel, and a bank, and had built a number of residences. Thus as one looks back 50 years one sees the high spots of contribution that can be typified by the tall, shining water tank.

(Grateful acknowledgement for information goes to Wilko Knupp, Allen Basye, and Richard Bradley, whose interview ended: "The wealth of a country is not in its bullion, but in the proper activity of its people's hands.")

#### PIXLEY TEACHER

PIXLEY, Aug. 21, 1900 — W. C. McAdams has been employed to teach the Pixley school the coming year.

## SERVING PORTERVILLE and Community FOR THE PAST 26 YEARS AT THE SAME LOCATION



WE TAKE PLEASURE IN WELCOMING ALL VETERANS AND PIONEERS TO PORTERVILLE ON HOMECOMING DAY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11.

WE SPECIALIZE IN WHEEL ALIGNMENT — BODY AND FENDER REPAIRING — FRAME STRAIGHTENING — FIRESTONE TIRES AND ACCESSORIES — AUTO SUPPLIES.

CARS PAINTED WITH OUR NEW "FACTORY METHOD" BAKED FINISH. WE REPLACE AUTO GLASS WHILE YOU WAIT.

## Valley Body Co.

FLOYD I. BRIGGS

335 E. Morton St.

Porterville

## Wishing all a very Happy Homecoming

Beautiful Selection . . .

DRESSES — SUITS  
COATS — MILLINERY

LATEST IN COSTUME JEWELRY  
FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

## Florence Bridge Shop

(Dorothy Owen)

527 N. Main

Porterville

### Gambler's WESTERN AUTO SUPPLY CO

WELCOME  
OLDTIMERS AND  
NEWCOMERS

## VISIT OUR FRIENDLY STORE DURING PORTERVILLE'S HOMECOMING

THE HOME OF . . .

### CORONADO APPLIANCES

REFRIGERATORS FREEZERS  
RADIOS — RADIO COMBINATIONS  
AUTOMATIC and REGULAR WASHERS

Also . . .

### CREST AUTOMOBILE TIRES VARCON BATTERIES

MAKE A DATE  
TO MEET YOUR  
FRIENDS AT . . .

### Gambler's WESTERN AUTO SUPPLY CO

227-229 N. MAIN

PORTERVILLE





## HIGH SCHOOL CLASS PHOPHECY IN 1909 HAS REPORTER ON WAR FRONT IN 1918

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — Class prophecies that have been appearing for many years as a feature of high school annuals are usually written with humor in mind, but back in 1909, McClellan Kuhn, writing the class prophecy for Porterville high school seniors called the turn on World War I, 10 years before it was declared.

In this 1909 prophecy, Mr. Kuhn has a letter, dated May 15, 1918, from Sardis Templeton, in which Sardis says, "Well, I suppose you heard about my appointment as head of war correspondents sent to the France-German war. I am in Paris at present but expect soon to be on my way to the front. Paris is just as gay as ever, the war has not had any decided effect on it as yet."

And also, in this letter of prophecy by Mr. Kuhn from Mr. Templeton, Sardis is reported to have written further, "Louise (Templeton) and I went to the opera last night and I think she will accompany me to Berlin next month. She is making the war the theme of her new play which she has already entitled, 'When Bobbie Comes Marching Home.'"

So again Mr. Kuhn was close to being 10 years ahead of his time. Remember the war song of 1918 or 1919, "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home Again."

But he didn't do so well with Walter Sturm. The class prophecy had "Berlin wild with joy. They received news that Prof. Sturm's new invisible air ship has just been the means of capsizing six of France's best war balloons. This

man possesses the knowledge of mixing some unknown substance with more unknown substances of an unknown quantity and thus making a substance that has the power of making all things to which it is applied invisible."

The prophecy of the invisible substance hasn't clicked yet, but perhaps we shouldn't question Mr. Kuhn's writing too much. Maybe he was even further ahead of his time than we realize.

## Slot Machine Operation Stopped

VISALIA, Oct. 7, 1904 — The slot machines at Visalia were turned toward the wall, Friday, by their owners, the result of the edict issued by District Attorney McFadden some weeks ago, stating that they would not be allowed to run after the last day of September.

A meeting was held Thursday night by the owners, and a committee of three: D. G. Overall, B. S. Ball and N. D. Dabney, was appointed to call upon the district attorney and find out what course of action would be pursued if they continued to run the machines.

They were informed that anyone running the machines would be prosecuted and the machines confiscated.

## CITY OF TENTS

SPRINGVILLE, May 18, 1900 — The city of tents will soon begin to make its appearance under the live oaks along the river. Many people camp here each summer to use the soda water.

FIRST BANK in Porterville, the Pioneer bank, incorporated in 1888 or 1889, was located in the southeast corner of the Pioneer hotel building where Claibes Pharmacy is now located. Shown in the above early photo are, left to right, John Loyd, George Williamson, Richard Bradley, Gerald Lumley, Will Putnam and N. B. Witt.

(Photo courtesy Hammonds)

## Former Stars To Play Football On Thanksgiving Day

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 18, 1913 — Word has been received that the old Porterville football stars, a few of the alumni and a few "has beens" will be prepared to meet the regular Porterville high school team on Thanksgiving day.

That there is excellent talent among these players cannot be denied when their numbers include such famous players as Elmer James, Mike Jones, Cliff Uhl, Milt Shry, Earl Hodgson, Lucien Schmittou, Roy Scruggs, Donald Jones, Hop Lyng, Jack Linden, Al Henry, Tom Beach, Ross Gardner, Orville Blalock, Gene McFarland and Pay Ford.

**WELCOME**  
**VETERANS AND PIONEERS TO**  
**PORTERVILLE'S**  
**HOMECOMING CELEBRATION**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th**

**Serving Porterville For The**  
**Past 31 Years**

★  
**Complete Cleaning Service**  
**Clothing — Rugs — Furniture**

★  
**PROCTOR CLEANERS**

NEWELL SMITH, Owner

507 E. Putnam

Porterville

1941

1953

**GREETINGS**

**VETERANS AND OLDTIMERS**

**Our 12th Year Serving**  
**Porterville and Vicinity**  
**We Thank You**

**76**

**UNION OIL PRODUCTS**

L. J. HAMILTON, Consignee

**A COMPLETE LINE OF LUBRICANTS**

**76**

**7600**

PHONE 22

Quarter Mile South of Porterville City Limits on Highway 65

1916

1953

**We Welcome All**  
**Veterans, 'Old Timers'**  
**and 'New Timers'**  
**TO PORTERVILLE ON**  
**HOMECOMING DAY**

**Wednesday**  
**November**

**11**

\*\*\*

**Bullard's**

**Dry Goods and Ready To Wear**

532 N. Main St.

Porterville





THERE WAS no need to drive this cow to and from pasture. Owner of the cow, Charles Smithling, lived in the Arlington hotel, and also managed the hotel, the boys riding her, Roy Witt and Dewey

Phillips, rode her in from the Witt pasture, north of Morton street along Third, and returned her after her owner had milked her. The picture was taken by Dr. S. A. Barber.

### WHY NOT A COURTHOUSE IN PORTERVILLE?

PORTERVILLE, Feb. 8, 1907 — As a development of the past week, Tulare county has been drawn into the county division fight waging between Fresno and Kings, and with the practically unanimous sentiment of its citizens has arrayed itself upon the side of the smaller county.

This is not due so much to Fresno's attempt to grab a parcel of our own Tulare county as to the absolute injustice of Fresno's effort to retain Coalinga.

As to the cutting off of a part of Tulare county and annexing it to Fresno, there is no one who realizes the absurdity of such a suggestion any more than the very Fresno men who are proposing it. They are merely making an effort to coerce Senator Miller into voting against the division bill. Miller will not be coerced.

And while all this dividing of

counties is in progress, why not have a little whirl at it ourselves? We are a long way from the county seat and there are hundreds of people back in the mountains to whom a trip to Visalia means a great deal of inconvenience.

A county courthouse in Porterville would be a distinct ornament to the community, wouldn't it?

### Sugar Beet Acreage Signed

VISALIA, Jan. 8, 1913 — Sufficient beet acreage to insure a long and successful run for the San Joaquin Valley Sugar company factory has been secured, according to an announcement by E. U. Combs, agriculturalist, and no more acreage will be signed this season. The total is 5,200 acres, with all but 200 acres in Tulare county.

SEE YOU IN PORTERVILLE  
NOVEMBER 11, 1953

### WELCOME TO PORTERVILLE ON HOMECOMING DAY



"We Build Anything In the Mill Line"

AT THE OLIVE STREET CABINET WORKS you can get advise on any cabinet work needed, a sound estimate on cost, or, if you have original ideas of your own, Sid and Ray can take those ideas and turn them into a completed job for you.

Free Estimates At Your Convenience

### Olive Street Cabinet Works

RAY FOX and SID COWAN, Owners

1523 West Olive

Phone 1727

Porterville

### Gold Fields Of Alaska Draw Porterville Men

PORTERVILLE, May 18, 1900 — Porterville will be denuded of quite a number of citizens this summer who will seek to benefit themselves in several ways in different parts of Alaska, but the majority are selecting Cape Nome.

Monday morning, J. H. James and Jim Howell left, the former for Seattle, from which point he will sail the 21st instant. He will be accompanied by Scott Ballagh

and Jim Coughran of Woodville.

Howell sails from San Francisco on the S. S. Zealandia the 21st instant, as will also John Templeton, who left here yesterday. Later, Dave Moshier expects to go, also Henry Traeger and Hugh Templeton, Traeger going to join his brother, Charles, who will open up a dry goods business.

Otis Gerould and Scott Ballagh will work for James at St. Michael, and Howell, Fred Harges, J. R. Collins and Frank Williams, at Nome.

### EARLY RISERS

PORTERVILLE, June 8, 1906 — Thousands annually bear witness to the efficiency of Early Risers. These pleasant, reliable little pills have long born a reputation second to none as a laxative and cathartic. Sold by Louis Osuna.

### BARGAIN

PORTERVILLE, June 8, 1908 — A real bargain being offered by Hall and Boller is the "Mountain Home" resort for \$1,500. Elegant climate; 80 acres. Place rents for \$350 per year.

## SERVING SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SINCE 1928



MODERN EQUIPPED FUNERAL HOME

PERSONNEL ON DUTY AT  
ALL TIMES  
DAY OR NIGHT

LADY ATTENDANT

## MYERS FUNERAL SERVICE

500 North E Street

Porterville, California

## SERVING THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY THE PAST 17 YEARS

ELY AUTO PARTS, FOUNDED IN 1936, HAS DONE ITS BEST TO GIVE FAITHFUL, DEPENDABLE SERVICE TO THE MOTORISTS OF TULARE COUNTY THROUGH THE CAR DEALERS, GARAGEMEN AND SERVICE STATIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY

WE WELCOME ALL OF YOU

To Porterville On Homecoming Day

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

## ELY AUTO PARTS

517 N. MAIN ST.

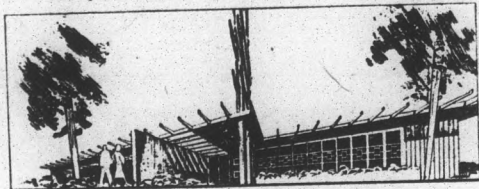
TELEPHONE 1756

PORTERVILLE



# Gang Sue's TEA GARDEN

園茶鏡蘇



Famous Chinese Family Style Dinners

**WELCOMES**  
**All To Porterville On**  
**Homecoming Day**  
**Wednesday, November 11th**  
**Gang Sue's Tea Garden**

1200 N. Main Street

PORTERVILLE

Telephone 361



**POLO ON** skates was one of the competitive sports in Porterville about 1907, with the local team playing in a league composed of several neighboring towns. Home

games were played in the old roller rink located on the site of the present Porterville city hall. On the team shown above were, left to right: Walter Mullins, Ted Camp-

bell, McClellan Kuhn, Marcus Jones, Charles Boatman, and, seated, C. B. (Tom) Smith. (Photo courtesy Marcus Jones.)

## GOOD DEAL

PORTERVILLE, Feb. 1, 1901 — Barley is being cleaned, steamed, and crushed at the Porterville Flouring mill for \$1.00 per ton.

## HONOR ROLL

WHEATLAND, Mar. 5, 1897 — The following constitutes the roll of honor for the six months ending February 26th: Denham, Lily and Ardella Hackett, Alice and George Parson and Alvin Utt. Neva Porch, teacher.

## Porterville Polo Team Beats Visalia; Marcus Jones Is Star Of Game Played Under Dim Lights In Carnival Pavilion

PORTERVILLE, Feb. 8, 1907 — Before a crowd of 300 excited, cheering, enthusiastic spectators, the Porterville polo team took the Visalia team down to defeat on Saturday night last at the Carnival Pavilion.

The final score was 2-0, and the Visalians were out-played, out-generalled, out-skated, but they nevertheless managed to make the contest interesting.

The game had progressed perhaps five minutes when one of the Visalians put the ball into the goal and the score stood 1-0 against the locals. But a clean stroke by Mullins put the ball into the goal a few minutes before the half ended, making the score 1-1.

The Visalians played desperately in the second half, but after the first spurt, found themselves again defending their own goal. Near the end of the game a well-placed stroke by Mullins once more put the ball into the Visalia goal.

Referee Jack Newberry announced that on account of their repeated fouling the visitors had been deprived of their one point, making the final score, 2-0.

The best individual players among the local boys are hard to pick. Marcus Jones proved himself the possessor of probably the surest stroke of any man on either team. Mullins and Wherry put up a magnificent game throughout, while Norton's goal tending was all that could be desired. Loughhead and Campbell, who alternated at right guard, were entirely satisfactory.

The teams lined up as follows: Porterville — Wherry, first rush; Mullins, second rush; Loughhead and Campbell, right guard; Jones, left guard; Norton, goal tender. Visalia — Farrow, first rush; Creighton, second rush; White, right guard; Gould, left guard; Graeter, goal tender; Eckelson, substitute.

The players were all prevented from doing their best work by the dimness of the electric lights, the room being so dark that it was often impossible to follow the ball. Referee Newberry had a narrow escape from serious injury, accidentally receiving a blow over the eye from one of the polo sticks.

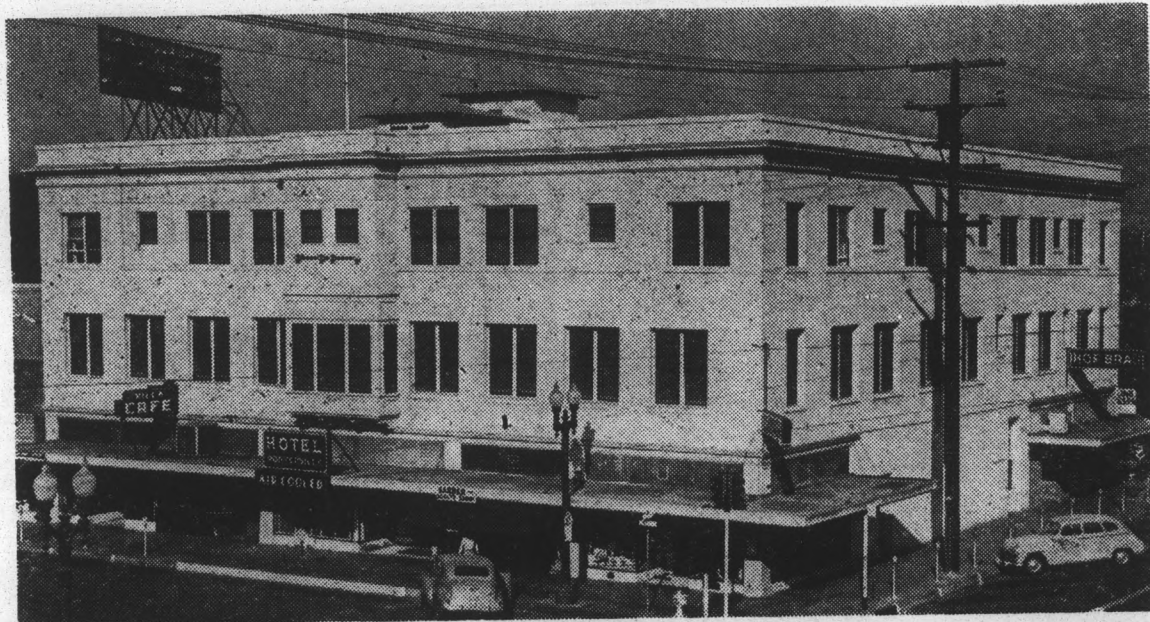
## Football Team Entertained By Superintendent

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 18, 1913 — On Thursday evening of last week, Supt. and Mrs. Brous entertained the Porterville Hi football team at their home on E street. The boys were greeted with a hearty welcome, substantially backed by an elaborate banquet planned and served by Mrs. Brous.

The boys who attended were: Myron Tobias, Harold Tobias, Harold Baca, Rolla Norris, Evans, Sam Dollar, Schiller Ting, Clark Schmittou, Vernon Hall, Charles Flory, Walden Bunker and Barton Sheela.

See You In Porterville

# We Welcome All To PORTERVILLE On Homecoming Day



Olive and Main St.

Porterville

## THE PORTER CAFE

Dinners Lunches  
Breakfast

Specializing In  
Home-made Pies

We Cater to Parties

Entrance Also From Lobby of Hotel

## PORTERVILLE HOTEL

For Over 50 Years  
A Part of A Growing  
Community

Air Conditioned

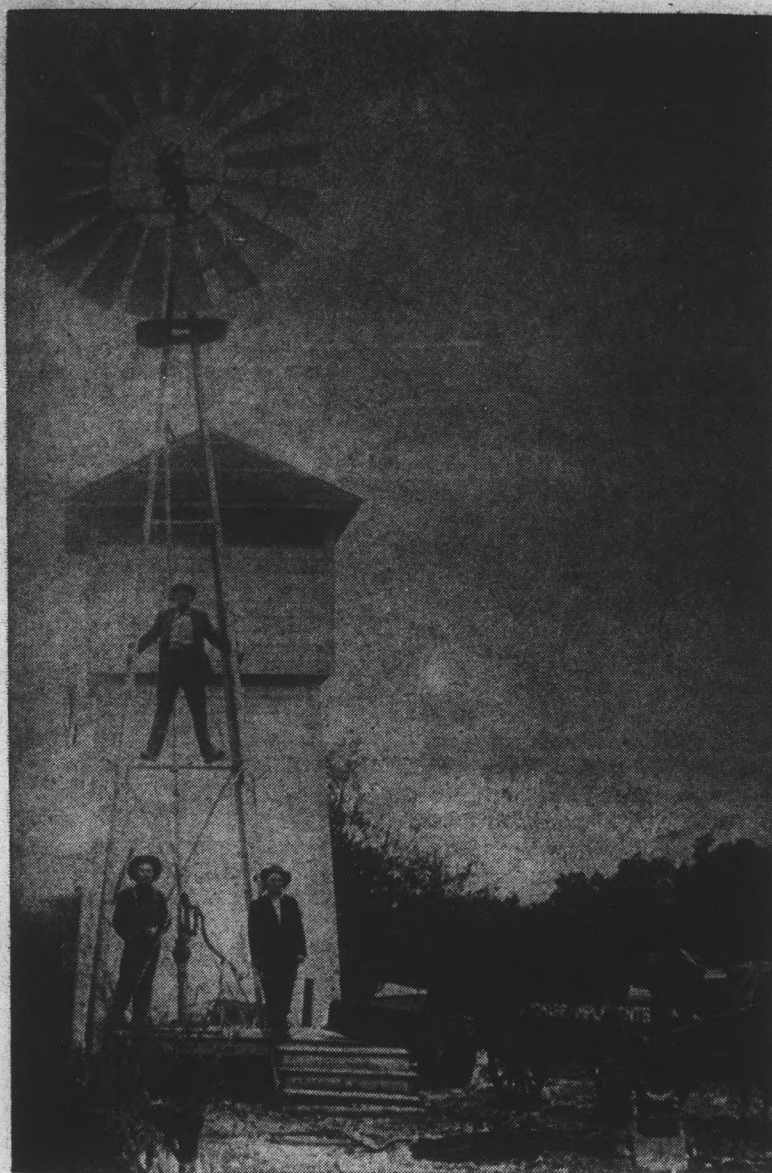
FREE PARKING

## THE HOF BRAU

COCKTAILS

Dancing Nightly





JOHN WITT, shown above, standing at top on windmill while doing a repair job for Charles Nieman. Was this picture taken at the city water well at Fourth street and Putnam avenue? (Photo courtesy Mrs. Ida Witt)

## WITT PLUMBING SHOP OLDEST IN PORTERVILLE WHEN SOLD LAST YEAR TO ROBERT WRIGHT

By Ina H. Stiner

PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 —

The Witt Plumbing Shop was the oldest in Porterville when it was sold on November 7, 1952 to Robert Wright. John Witt and his son, Roy Witt, had operated it under the name of Witt Plumbing company at 505 Morton St. near Fourth since 1914. This shop building itself had been moved from the site of the Porterville Recorder building in the half block between Putnam and Mill, Division and Hockett. There it was known as the DeLaney building because the shop served the A. J. DeLaney Hardware store which was on the west side of Main street just south of the Masonic Temple, that is, was the second door from Putnam.

Early plumbing shops were connected with hardware stores as sales places for the ware produced by the tinshops and by iron workers before the days of much house plumbing and vice versa the stores carried pipe and fixtures for the plumbers.

John Witt, who was born in 1873 and died in 1952, was married in 1893 to Nettie Alice Thompson and had three children that grew up — Merle, Roy, and Virgie. In 1899 he began working in sheet metal and iron for Charles Nieman, who was an experienced tinsmith and plumber, working with him about three years to learn the trade. Nieman's tinning and plumbing shop was back of his store which was on the east side of Main street, the second door north of Mill; that is, the shop was in the half block bounded by Mill, Second and Putnam; it was the

most important plumbing shop in town at that time.

John worked all day in the shop and then had to work in the store until the nine o'clock closing time; and for this work from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. he got 75 cents a day, which was later raised to a dollar a day. Then if a water pipe burst on Sunday, he had to go fix it. This was hard to get by with in providing for his family. But he learned his trade.

In 1901 he and Nick Kaylor started a shop of their own; as Mrs. Alice Witt remembers, it was on Mill street about where the Porter Theatre is now; in 1902 he and his brother Charles Witt and his brother-in-law, Charles Smithling, bought out Kaylor; but Chas. Witt became night watchman; so the partnership did not last long. In 1907 John Witt went to Lindsay for a year; on his return to

Porterville he began working for Charles Boline and J. A. DeLaney in the shop, which he later bought, back of their store, the shop being near the southeast corner of Putnam and Hockett.

His family lived in Mrs. Trefry's house among the fig trees on the south part of that half block; a house that was then plumbed for water and sewage. In 1909 the family moved to their permanent home on Third street north of Morton. There is a picture of two boys, Roy Witt and Dewey Phillips, riding a cow along Main street to get her from this pasture to the Arlington (or Porterville) Hotel where her owner would milk her.

In 1910 John Witt was a foreman when the Springville railroad tracks were laid. Back in Porterville he got a plumbing shop at 510 Second Street, across from the present Sunbeam Bakery. Then he bought the DeLaney shop in which he had formerly worked. The purchase was made from J. W. Thomas who had bought the DeLaney Hardware store, and who, after John Witt in 1914 moved the shop to Hockett street, erect-

(Continued On Next Page)

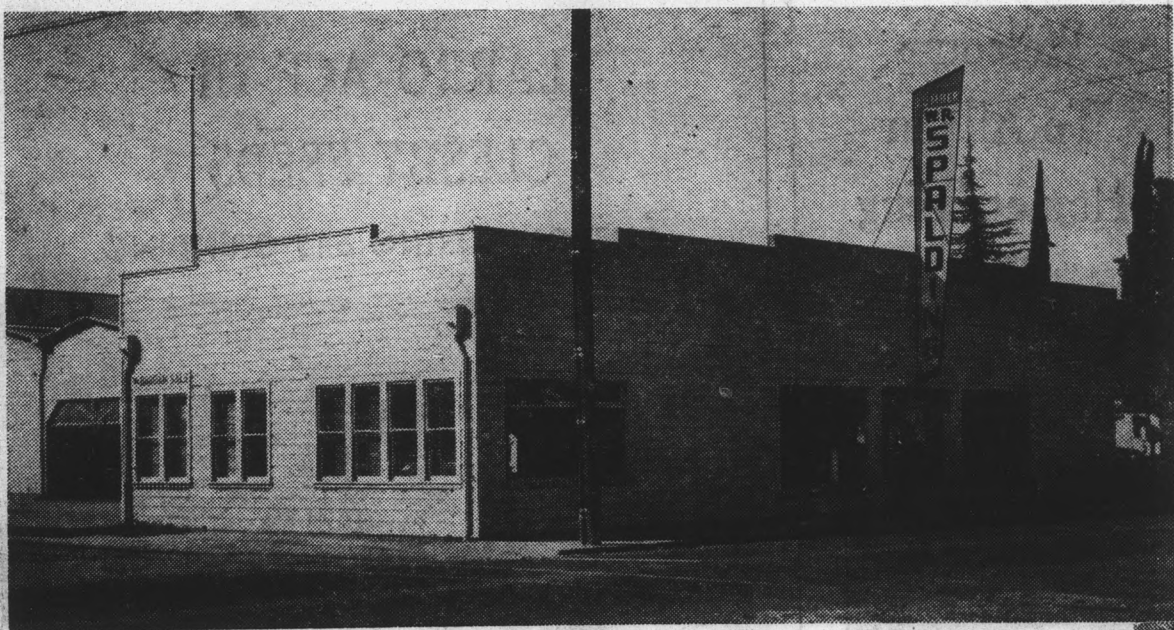
*Cuddly as a kitten, our cozy alpaca coats! You'll want one of these furry fashions and you can afford it!*



**Clare-Retta Shop**

513 N. Main PORTERVILLE Phone 998

## Progressing With Porterville Since 1908



1953

For the past 45 years, yards of the W. R. Spalding Lumber Co. have served the residents of Tulare County. Starting from a two-yard business, W. R. Spalding Lumber Co. has expanded to serve Porterville, Woodville, Strathmore, Lindsay, Exeter, Visalia, Tulare, Farmersville and Cutler.



**W. R. Spalding Lumber Company**

West Putnam and E Streets

Porterville, California

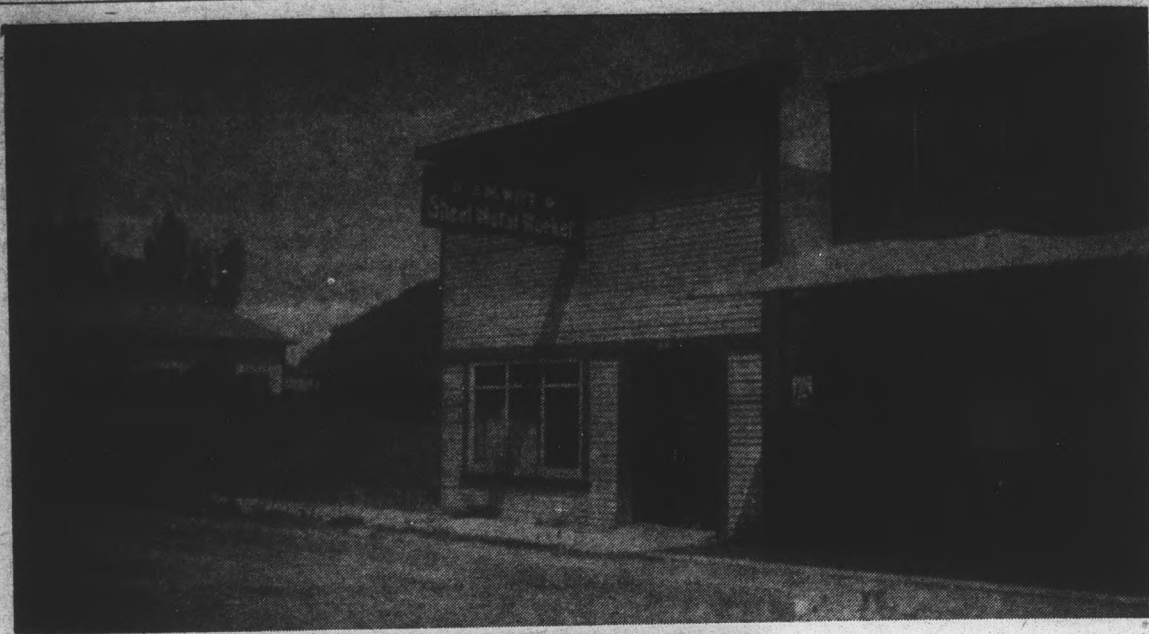
**WELCOME PIONEERS,  
VETERANS AND ALL  
TO PORTERVILLE ON**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

1908







EXTERIOR VIEW of J. M. Witt plumbing shop on Second street, opposite Sunlight Bakery building. Also shown is an interior view of the shop with John Witt on right and a Mr. Wagner on the left.

(Photo courtesy Roy Witt)

#### CHURCH BUILDING

PORTERVILLE, Apr. 1, 1909 — Workmen upon the Congregational church have made remarkable progress in the past few weeks and at the present time the auditorium of the new building is practically completed.

#### ECKLES IS MINISTER

PORTERVILLE, Dec. 6, 1899 — William E. Eckles, who is a student in the Congregational Theological Seminary at Oakland, is now preaching at the Congregational church in Port Costa.

### Plumbing Shop Sold To Robert Wright

(Continued From Previous Page)

ed the Thomas building along that Putnam Street frontage. On moving the shop building they found boxes of sticks of dynamite that had been shoved under the floor for safe keeping and forgotten — enough "to blow up the town."

As a plumber, John Witt put water pipes and fixtures into houses and constructed septic tanks that were used before the city could lay sewer mains. Some of the houses in which he did this work were the J. H. Williams house at the orange groves and the property at Hot Springs; the Mentz building — now Jones Hardware — and the old P. P. Davis house. (In the older houses exposed pipes had to be brought in from the outside or from the basement.)

At that time the joints in pipes made by plumbers were called "wiped joints" because the molten lead used was put on by a cloth, which was quite an art to do. There were also pipes to install for gas lights; gas from carbide plants was used for these early gas lights. The Witt Plumbing Co. also put in pumps and pumping plants. As tinsmiths they made parts of windmills and large water tanks for ranches, cans for housewives in canning fruit, buckets for teamsters hauling lumber, and sinks and even bath tubs for homes.

When Robert Wright bought the Witt shop late last year, there were many patterns cut from sheet metal hanging on the wall; most of them, being for hand-made articles no longer used, he threw them into the scrap; but there is one set of patterns in several pieces still hanging there. Also there were some ears and handles for buckets still left, which reminded Roy Witt of the teams he had in old days seen stalled in the mud on Main street.

After the buckets and cans were cut from sheet metal by these patterns, they were shaped by forms or machinery and then soldered together. Bath tubs were shaped from sheet zinc and had a good oak rim over the edge and an oak frame; many were still in Porterville houses after 1900. More things now are factory made; but still the tinsmith as well as the plumber is needed in fitting modern heating and air conditioning equipment into Portervilles houses.

#### LUCKY

PORTERVILLE, Oct. 4, 1904 — Frazier Valley seems to be the lucky corner, as another resident, Mrs. C. S. Hamilton, of that thriving district, was the winner of a ten dollar hat given away at Leggett's during their millinery evening.

## Haener's YOUR JEWELER



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To All On  
Homecoming  
Day



Haener's Jeweler — — — — — 1928

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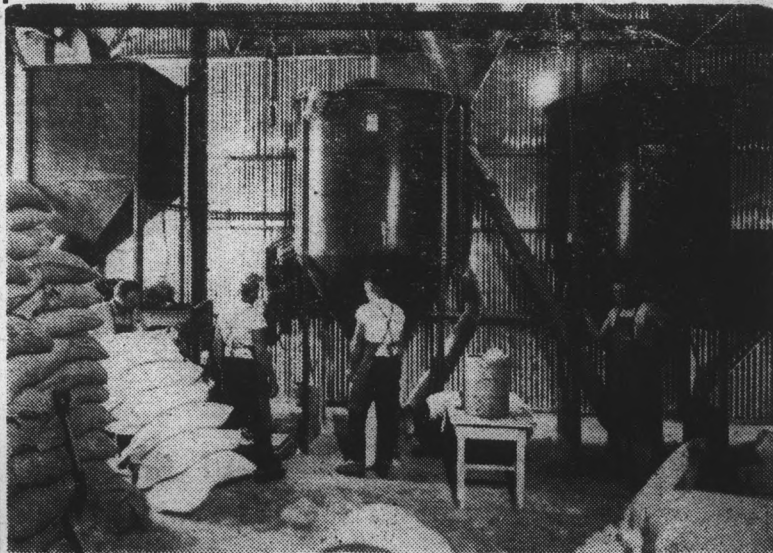
Porterville

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Porterville



# Porterville Growth Reflected In Subdivision Expansion Following First Real Estate Development By R. Putnam

By Ina H. Stiner  
PORTERVILLE, Nov. 5, 1953 — The symbol of progress most noticeable in a community is the framework of a house — the skeletal embryo of a home, a church, a school, or a shop. Most any week of the last 25 or so years one or more such frames could be seen in the Porterville community. If you let those start your minds running back into history you can envision only carpenters, plumbers, and other builders; lumberyards and hardware stores; and also the growth of the city's streets and of subdivisions on which houses have been built. And in this connection there came real estate dealers, sellers of fire insurance, etc.

As good a salesman of real estate as any was R. Porter Putnam who laid out the town of Porterville in 1864, almost 90 years ago, on his 40 acres bounded approximately by the County Road (later named Putnam Ave.), Fourth, Willow, and Division streets, and crossed by Main, Second, and Third streets and Mill, Oak, and Garden streets. Mr. Putnam sometimes added the bonus of a resi-

dence lot to one sold for a shop or business house, and definitely gave a lot for a house moved from Vandalia, e.g. the house on 617 East Mill owned by Mrs. Sarah Wilcox George.

Then John B. Hockett put portions on his farm property west of Division street into the new town site. An early map recorded in 1870 at the county seat shows, west of Division street, town blocks separated by east-west streets named First, Second, Third, and Fourth which soon crossed at right angles Porter Putnam's Second, Third and Fourth streets in their northward extension into an addition from the land owned by Daniel Murphy. (This inconsistency of street names was corrected in the presidential year of 1888 when these east-west streets were re-named for the candidates: Cleveland, Thurman, Harrison, and Morton; and later, First street disappeared in the westward extension of Putnam Ave.

That year of 1888 when the Southern Pacific railroad came through Porterville and the years immediately following greatly increased the area of Porterville.

The Southern Pacific Railroad company's land-holding factor, which was called the Pacific Improvement company, bought Hockett land and land to the south of Porterville — and added to the confusion of streets by naming those extending southward alphabetically: A, B, C, D, etc.

About this same year 1888 the Pioneer Land Company was incorporated by some San Francisco capitalists to buy land bordering Porterville to the north. There were several subdivisions extending over Scenic Hill and to the east and west of it; actually the land they bought extended from Morton street to Welcome road and far to the northwest. This was mainly for agricultural development; but part of it has come into the city's area as residential districts.

Many of the subdivisions that make up the present Porterville were started by pioneers who were not of the Pioneer Land company. And then, as now many of the men who laid out subdivisions also sold other real estate. Not until along in this century was licensing required for real estate dealers. T. M. Slusser says that when he came, early in this century, it seemed as though every banker and preacher and most barbers were in the business. He and Allen Basye recalled the following as buying and selling real estate at the turn of the century: Fred Ackerman and Anton Konda, H. S. Bachman, J. F. Boller, Alma Hall, Mr. Bradrick, Ed and Lloyd Cornell, Robert Horbach, Walter and Charles Premo, Mr. Simpson, Homer O. Smith, and Joseph Tetrault.

Here is a list of the subdivisions of Porterville, maps of which Mr. Basye has on file in his office, and in which you notice pioneer names.

Some are very small tracts; but such a list shows the progress of house-building and spread of population in Porterville in the last 60 years.  
(Continued On Next Page)



FORMERLY THE Witt plumbing shop on East Morton street, this shop was the oldest plumbing firm in Porterville. (Farm Tribune photo)

## WANDA'S

Infants' — Children's — Teen-Age  
And Maternity Shop

WELCOMES ALL  
PIONEERS AND VETERANS  
ON HOMECOMING DAY

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On Homecoming Day  
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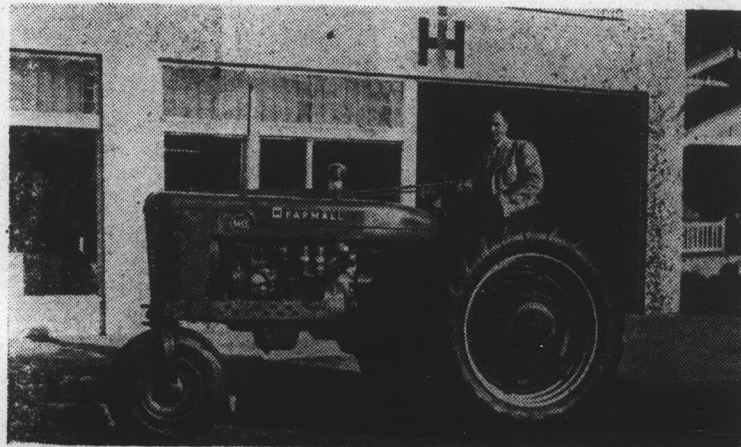
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Porterville

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Now in its 33rd year of progress with Porterville

IT IS OUR PLEASURE  
TO WELCOME  
ALL TO PORTERVILLE  
ON HOMECOMING DAY  
NOVEMBER 11th



INTERNATIONAL

Tractors — Power Farm Equipment



HARVESTER

Trucks — Road Construction Equip.

Marks Tractor & Truck Co.

201 South Main Street

Porterville, California



## Rapid Growth of Porterville Due In Part to Many Subdivisions

(Continued From Previous Page)

Adelsbach (early drayman) Addition; Judge Avery Addition, Robert Baker (early merchant) Addition, Bradrick Court, Burgess & Shry Subdivision, Cornell Addition, Corona Tract, John Danner Tract, Doris Tract, Ducommen (early jeweler) Subdivision, Wm. Duncan Subdivision, Eastern Addition, El Bonita Tract, El Granito Addition, Edgemont Subdivision, Gibson Tract, Grand View Tract, Hallford's Addition, J. L. Heilman's Addition, (Dr. W. S.) Henrahan Place, School Addition, High School Terrace, B. Hockett's Addition, Hockett & Parkhurst Addition (very early), Howland Subdivision, Kessing Tract, Konda Subdivision, Leslie Subdivision, H. L. Manter's Subdivision, Mentz Subdivision, Millwood Subdivision,

Monte Vista Flat, Moore Subdivision, George Murphy's Addition, J. P. Murry (early cattleman) Addition, site of Porterville's first school house in 1874), Northern Addition, Pacific Improvement Co. Addition, Park View Heights, Pioneer Addition, Pioneer Land Co.'s Additions, Peter F. Roche's (early railway employee) Addition, Robinson Tract, Scenic Heights, Schoolhouse Addition, Schulz's Subdivision, Shaney's Subdivision, Sickles Addition, Sierra Heights Sturm's Addition, Sunnyside Addition, Sierra View Heights, Swastika Subdivision, Tetrault Addition, Thomas Acres (J. W., a banker), Traeger Addition, Zalud & White Addition.

In driving through Porterville one would be surprised to know that much more than half of the

residential district is not really within the limits of the City of Porterville. Some of these adjacent divisions are older than some subdivisions recently added to the city; and their names or those of their streets are sometimes the names of pioneers.

Two of the oldest of these adjacent subdivisions are a tract along Tomah and Wisconsin streets, and Doyle Colony. The former was planned by Adolph G. Schulz who came from Tomah, Wisconsin, in 1887, with his brother-in-law James Willson. (A sister of his wife, Mrs. Edith Williams, has also handled much real estate in Porterville in connection with the J. H. Williams estate. Mrs. Nellie Pratt is the daughter of A. G. Schulz; and Mrs. Anna Norris, the daughter of James Willson.)

Doyle Colony was opened in 1907 by J. J. Doyle (of Doyle Springs and earlier of the Mussel Slough tragedy). It was the first experiment here of selling houses and little acreage on the installment plan like monthly rentals. Here is a list of other adjacent tracts (from the Harry Johnson office):

Blacherne Tract, Brown Acres, Eckles Tract, Frost Addition, Haines Subdivision, Hermosa Orange Colony, A. R. Henry and Oliver Henry Subdivision, Isham Tract, Hostetter's Subdivision, Johnson - Ridgway Subdivision, Pleasant Grove Tract, Price Garden Acres, Putnam & Boatman Tract, Riley Subdivision, Simpson Tract, Westside Addition, Williams & Premo's Villa Tract.

Besides these there are newer the policy since 1946 of the County Planning commission which is the authority now approving the opening of new residential areas outside the limits of incorporated cities. In the immediate vicinity of Porterville there are 20 such tracts, as follows:



FIVE GENERATIONS of Witts: Carol Ann Schoellerman (the Royal Thompson, Mrs. Alice Witt, Merle Witt, Witt.) (Photo courtesy Mrs. Alice Schoellerman, Max Schoellerman,

Tracts: 17 (Waukesha and Tomah), 27 (Holcomb and Tyler), 36 (Locust, Lime and Division), 44 (Santa Fe R. R. track and Jay Brown's Acres), 45 (Hapgood, Cline, Roby and Olive), 61 (W. Morton, Cottage, Villa, W. Bellevue), 66 (Putnam, Olive, Dogwood, Westwood), 68 (Sunset, Slaughter, Atkin Way), 74 (Leggett's Drive, Isham, Jill, Dixie, Doree, Maurer), 89 (Putnam, Morton, Thurman, Newcomb, Lotas), 127 (Olive, Putnam, Elderwood), 128 (Olive, Tomah, Dameron), 153 (Putnam, Burton, Patsy Lane), 157 (Newcomb, Sunset, Riley Drive, Roby, Clare, 158 (Locust, Cypress, Second, Millford Drive), 160 (Cottage, Chess Terrace), 161 (Westfield Drive, Milo St.), 162 (Olive, Mountain View, Maple, Sierra View), 170 (Davis St.), 172 (Putnam, Burton, Patsy Lane.)

## A BUSY SOCIAL SEASON DEMANDS A SKILLED CLEANING SERVICE

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We Welcome All To Porterville  
On Homecoming Day  
Wednesday, Nov. 11

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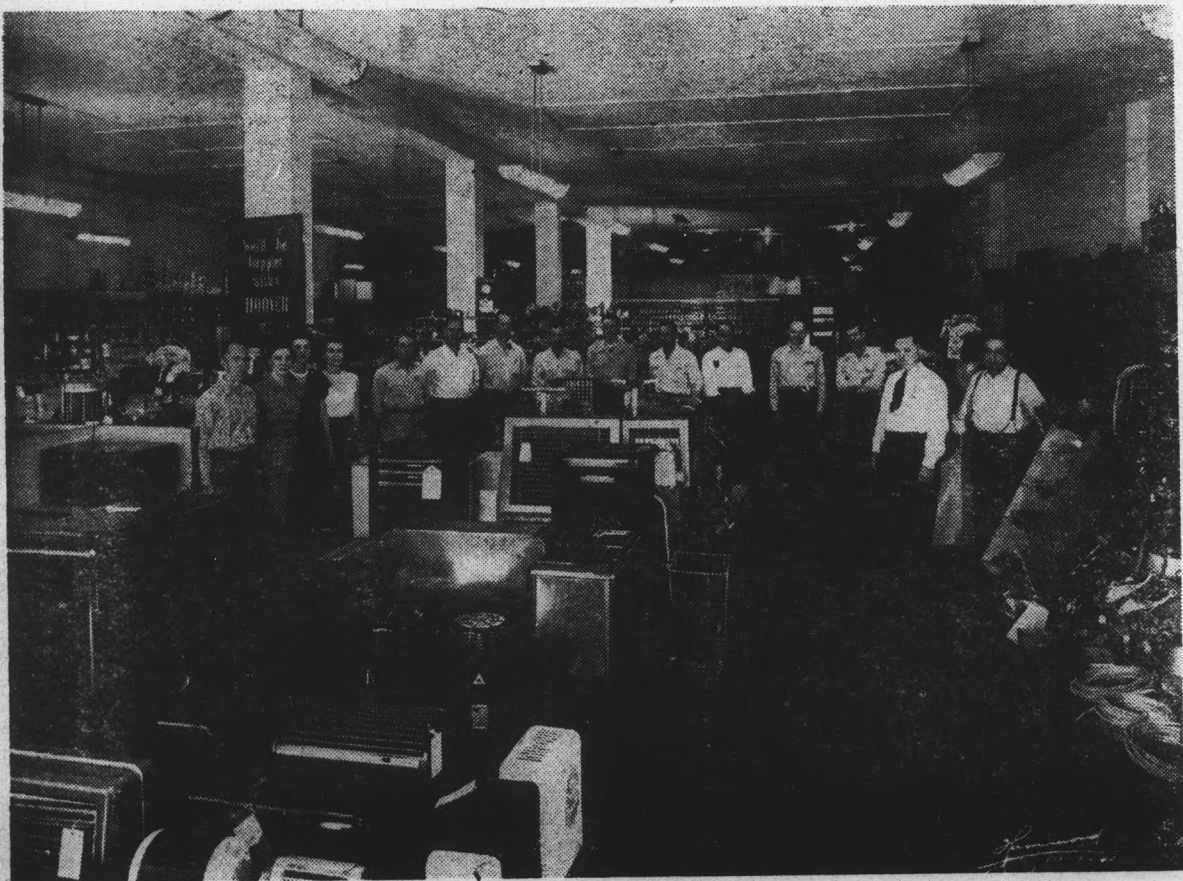
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